THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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PIC: BAI

GOLDEN MOMENT FOR INDIAN BADMINTON

Anmol Kharb, 17, once again made the difference as India women's team secured an historic gold medal in the Badminton Asia Team Championships in Shah Alam, Malaysia after beating Thailand 3-2 in the final. With the contest locked at 2-2, Anmol delivered another masterclass against Pornpicha Choeikeewong, winning 21-14, 21-9 | **P13**

NDA's 3rd term crucial for India's progress, says PM

Opposition parties are incapable of taking the country forward: Modi

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said a third term for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is essential for India's progress because the opposition parties lack the vision and commitment to take the country forward in terms of development.

Addressing BJP delegates from across the country at the BJP's national convention, Modi said he is not seeking another term to enjoy power but for the country's benefit. Asserting that the ruling alliance will storm back to power with a record mandate of 400-plus seats, he said even world leaders are convinced about his continuance as PM that he is getting invitations for events that are months away. "The elections are yet to happen, but I am getting invitations from foreign countries for July, August, September... These countries know that *Aayega to Modi hi* (Modi's victory is inevitable)," he said, adding that every country now wants to have deeper relations with India.

In his 70-minute address to party's delegates, Modi urged them to work hard and reach out to each and every beneficiary of Central government schemes. "For NDA to cross 400, the BJP will have to cross the milestone of 370. The next five years are going to be crucial. We have to take a big leap towards Viksit Bharat. The first imperative is to ensure the return of the BJP to power in strong numbers," he said.

Taking a jab at the opposition parties, Modi said they may not know how to plan or execute large projects but they are matchless in making false commitments. "Despite this, these parties lack the courage to make one promise—Viksit-Bharat. Nor do they question us about it. They have acknowledged they cannot lead India to development," he said.

Modi claimed the BJP is the only party that aspires to make India a developed nation by 2047, adding that NDA's last 10 years have been characterised by bold decisions and futuristic policies. "We dared to complete the tasks were left unfinished for decades—Ayodhya Ram temple construction, opening of Kartarpur corridor, abrogation of Article 370," he said. **P9**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the BJP National Council meeting on its second day at Bharat Mandapam | PTI

The next five years are going to be crucial. The first condition for realising the big goals for the country is to ensure the return of the BJP to power with a strong mandate

Narendra Modi, PM

It's Mahabharata war, says Shah

Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday likened the Lok Sabha polls to the Mahabharata war, asserting that the BJP will win. "Just as in the Mahabharata war there were two camps, Kauravas and Pandavas, today there are two camps ahead of polls," he said

Ram Rajya for 1,000 years: BJP resolution

The BJP's national convention passed a resolution on the Ram temple in Ayodhya, stating it heralds establishment of 'Ram Rajya' in India for the next 1,000 years. The resolution noted the temple has become a temple of "national consciousness"

Nadda's tenure extended till June

BJP national president JP Nadda's tenure has been extended till June 2024. The decision, which was announced in January by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, was approved by the party's national council held in New Delhi on Sunday

RECORD PLAYERS: INDIA POST 434-RUN WIN

GOMESH S @ Rajkot

RAVINDRA Jadeja was down on his knees, kissing the pitch at the Niranjan Shah Stadium, Rajkot. He had completed a fifer, trapping Mark Wood on the pads and helped India secure a record victory in the third Test against England here on Sunday. At least he thought so.

Wood reviewed and survived, but it was always going to be a matter of time. He dismissed Wood in the next over, this time the celebrations were much casual despite India registering a 434-run victory — the biggest in terms of margin of runs — taking a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

India's Ravindra Jadeja (L) celebrates the wicket of England's Joe Root on Day 4 in Rajkot, on Sunday. This is India's biggest win (in terms of margin of runs) | AP

Rohit was a satisfied captain. After being constantly challenged by England, in Rajkot, he and the bowlers had come up with specific plans for a slowish surface and it worked. Mohammed Siraj led the way in the first essay and Jadeja in the second. R Ashwin, who had to head home for a family emergency, too, joined the team on Sunday. This one, along with Visakhapatnam, will remain special for Rohit because of where they were after Hyderabad and the players they did not have. For England, the Rajkot Test was supposed to be their best chance. The hosts were playing with two debutants and a middle-order with a cumulative experience of one Test. England had India down to 33/3 on day one. England were 207/2 after day two. When they started batting on Saturday, they did not have to face Ashwin.

And yet, over the course of 48 hours, India did what they do more often than not in a home Test. They bundled out England, piled on a massive lead before putting England back with four-and-a-half sessions to play. The rest, as said before, was all Jadeja's magic. **P13**

Three charred to death, five injured after scrapyard goes up in flames in city

A gutted autorickshaw parked near the scrapyard where a fire broke out at Ramasandra in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a major accident, three died, while five other workers were critically injured after a major fire broke out at a scrapyard where the workers were allegedly filling chemicals into perfume bottles. The incident happened in Kumbalgodu on the outskirts of the city on Sunday. The cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained. One of the deceased has been identified as Saleem, aged around 30, who was running the place, while the identity of two others is yet to be established. The injured are Afroz, Sadik, Allah Baksh, Riyaz and Imran. Of the five, the condition of four is said to be critical, and they are being treated at Victoria Hospital.

The accident occurred around 5 pm when eight workers were reportedly infusing chemicals into perfume bottles at a 30x40 sqft scrapyard on Chikkabasti Main Road at Ramasandra near Kumbalgodu. **P5**

EXPRESS READ

BC hostels in Tumakuru faced rice shortage

Tumakuru: Backward Class hostels in Tumakuru faced rice shortages in December last year forcing officials to get 180 quintals of rice from the Siddangana Mutt. The district was supposed to get rice from the Food and Civil Supplies Department in October 2023, but got it in January 2024 | **P4**

Kerala cops nab K'taka Naxal after 20 years

Chikkamagaluru: Naxalite Suresh Angadi alias Pradeep, who was evading the police for more than 20 years, was arrested by the Kannur police in Kerala. The Karnataka police had announced a reward of Rs 5 lakh | **P7**

Farmers harden stance as talks drag on, want protest at BJP leaders' doorsteps

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

FARMER unions on Sunday hardened their stance even as the fourth round of talks with the Centre kicked off in Chandigarh, with the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of unions, calling for taking the protest to BJP leaders' doorsteps.

In Punjab, protesting farmers will gherao the residences of BJP leaders for three days starting Tuesday. Also, tolls across the state will be 'liberated' to allow free passage of vehicles.

Farmer leaders warned the protest will continue even if the model code of conduct for the Lok Sabha elections comes into force, reiterating that the farmers will not accept anything less than the C2 (comprehensive cost of production) plus 50% formula for minimum support price as recommended in the Swaminathan Commission report.

The SKM announced its decision after its meeting in Ludhiana on Sunday. SKM leader Balbir Singh Rajewal said farmers will stage protests in front of the residences of Punjab BJP leaders including MPs and MLAs from Tuesday to Thursday. Toll barriers will also be deactivated during February 20-22 to make passage free for passengers, he added.

Rajewal said SKM will hold a meeting on February 22 in Delhi to chalk out future strategy.

Meanwhile, Haryana farmers unions have also got active after a meeting with khaps at Kurukshetra on Sunday. Haryana BKU (Chaduni) president Gurnam Singh Chaduni said they will announce their plan of action on Monday if the fourth round of talks fail. **P10**

Farmers raising slogans at the Punjab-Haryana Shambhu border on Sunday during their 'Delhi Chalo' protest near Patiala district | PTI

CM: Impossible for administration to be free of corruption

PRAMODKUMAR VAIDYA @ Haveri

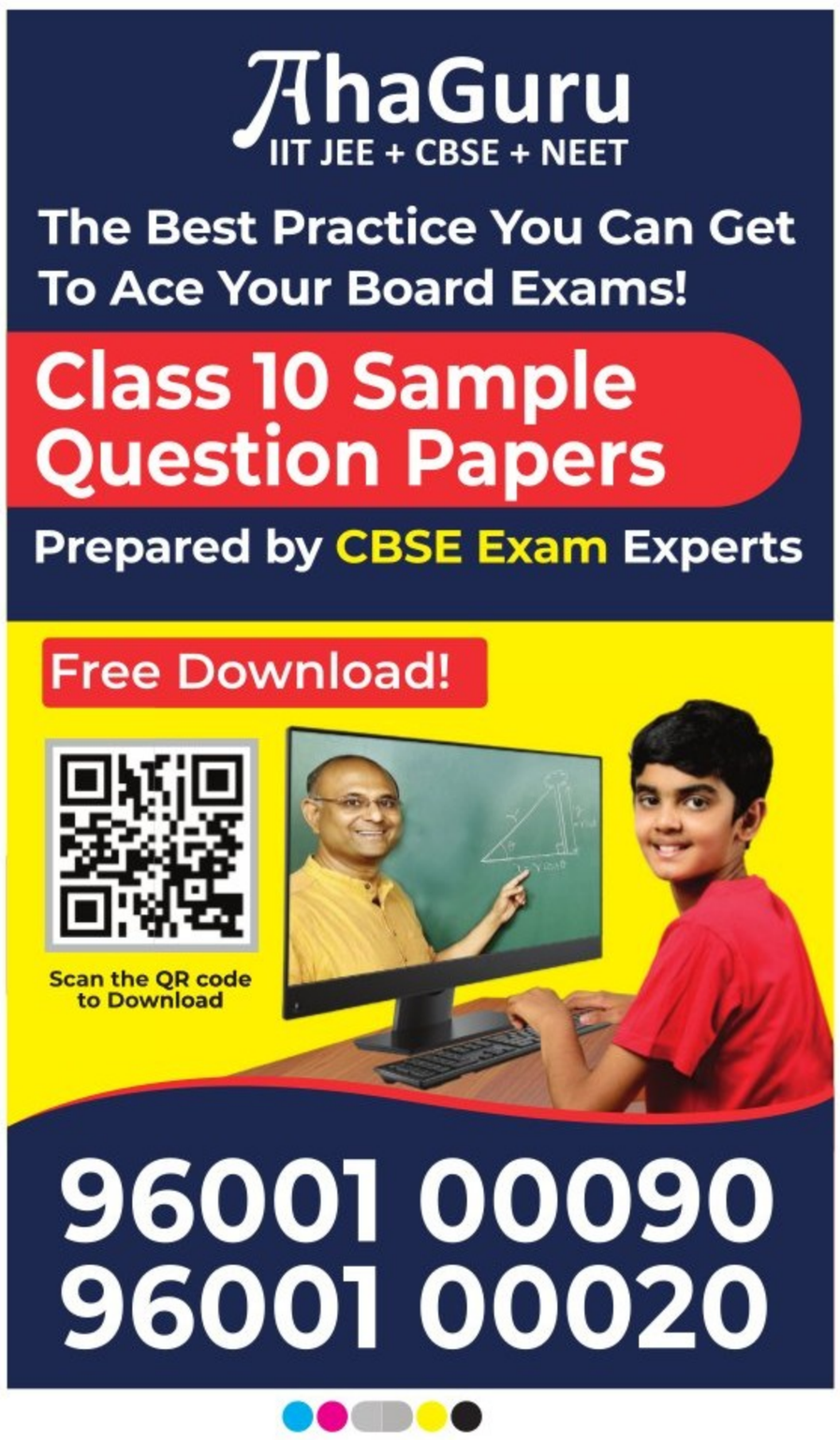
IN a shocking remark, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that is is impossible for the administration to be corruption-free.

In his reply to a query on corruption, Siddaramaiah told reporters, "Who said there is no corruption? It is impossible to be corruption-free. There will always be black sheep, but such elements will be identified and punished."

Playing down Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claim that communities belonging to Dalit and other backward castes have a prime share in the country's natural resources, he said the entire 140 crore people of the country are partners in these resources. "Not only Muslims, Christians and Dalits, every citizen of this country has rights over natural resources. No one community or minorities alone can have rights on the resources," he said.

On the Lok Sabha elections, he said the first list of Congress candidates will be out soon.

Debunking former chief minister BS Yediyurappa's remark that he allocated Rs 2,000 crore for his assembly constituency Varuna in the recently presented budget, Siddaramaiah asked sarcastically, "What position does Yediyurappa hold now? The media report on the allocation is false."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India's biggest leopard safari to open soon at BBP

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE much-awaited dedicated leopard safari will soon start at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP), the first in Karnataka and the biggest in India.

Even as Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Thursday directed the forest department and zoo management officials to start the leopard safari soon, on the lines of the already-existing BBP's lion and tiger safaris, BBP officials said it depends on the time the leopards in the safari take to bond with each other and how fast they get trained. "If all goes well, the safari can be thrown open for people in one-and-a-half months. But if the model code of conduct (MCC) comes into force (for the Lok Sabha polls scheduled in April-May), then it will be open to people in May or after the MCC is lifted," said an official from the department.

Training is necessary as officials are wary of the leopards not co-existing with each other, which was the case with the cheetahs brought from South Africa to the Kuno reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

BBP has carved out 20 hectares in its area for the safari. The management has set up a high-rise mesh and kept tall trees away from the fences, not wanting to give any room for the big cats to escape.

Leopard safaris, managed by zoo authorities, are already open in Nagpur in Maharashtra and Rajgir in Bihar, but the one at BBP is planned to be bigger than them. **P7**

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

02 BENGALURU | MONDAY 19.02.2024 | newindianexpress.com

ALMANAC TODAY

Monday: 19/02/2024 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Magha • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Dasami 11.43 am • Nakshatra: Mrigashira 1.24 pm • Moon in Kataka Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER — MIN 16°C | MAX 32°C — FORECAST: Decreasing cloudiness

Sunrise 06.40 am | Sunset 06.26 pm | Moonrise 02.08 pm | Moonset 02.39 am

GOVT MULLS FLYOVERS BESIDE METRO LINES

Shivakumar says proposal sent to central government, feasibility report for tunnel roads being prepared

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday said the government is considering building flyovers along certain stretches of Metro lines to decongest traffic in the city. He also said a feasibility report for tunnel roads near Yeshwanthpur and surrounding areas is being prepared.

Speaking at the 'Government at your Doorstep' programme held at Jnanabharathi, Shivakumar said, "It has been decided to build flyovers on certain stretches of Metro lines to decongest the traffic. A proposal has been sent to the central government in this regard. We are also preparing a feasibility report for tunnel roads near Yeshwanthpur, Summanahalli, Goraguntepalya, etc."

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar receives petitions from people during the 'Government at your Doorstep' programme at Jnanabharathi on Sunday | EXPRESS

"The chief minister announced many projects in the budget to develop Bengaluru. The BBMP budget will be presented soon and it will complement the projects announced in the state budget. The government has certain plans to pool resources for projects in the city," the Bengaluru Development Minister said.

He said the government has taken up the work of surveying all properties in Bengaluru and delivering all property documents to the doorstep under the 'Namma Swatthu' scheme. "A pilot project of document verification was done in this (RR Nagar) constituency and some officials have tried to tamper with some documents. A complaint has been filed against them and an FIR has been registered," he added.

He reiterated that the government is bringing an amendment to the law as there have been many complaints about penalties for property tax. He also asked street vendors to register themselves so that the government can allot a place for them to do business, adding that they can't do business on pavements meant for pedestrians.

"Groundwater levels have depleted due to drought. There has been a suggestion to increase the depth of borewells and I will discuss it with officials. We have allocated Rs 200 crore to resolve drinking water issues," Shivakumar told reporters on the sidelines of the event.

The mass grievance redressal programme has been held in 12 Assembly constituencies of the city till now and about 20,000 pleas have been received. "You could probably hear only the promises in the BJP government, but you will see our work now. Our guarantee schemes reach 95% of the people. The remaining 5% could not be reached due to technical glitches. We are also planning to give a subsidy to set up solar panels atop your terrace," the DCM said.

39-year-old accounts officer conquers Kilimanjaro in 7 days

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THIRTY-nine-year-old Gautam Puttamadaiah, an accounts officer with the Office of Accountant General, recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, in seven days.

Mount Kilimanjaro, standing at 5,895 m or 19,341 ft above sea level, presents trekkers with the unique challenge of crossing through six distinct vegetative zones while experiencing temperature fluctuations of up to 55 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the trekking journey.

Gautam Puttamadaiah (left) and his brother Mithun at Mount Kilimanjaro

Gautam said, "My younger brother, Mithun Puttamadaiah, had long planned this adventure, which I had put on hold. However, one day, we decided to go for it. With no plans and knowledge, and only 20% of research about medical complications and associated risks, the hiking journey made me realise that sometimes, ignorance can indeed be bliss."

Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest freestanding mountain globally, emerges from a plateau rather than being part of a mountain range and is the only peak with eight major trekking routes.

Seven days from January 19 to January 27 via the Lemosho Route, known for its high success rate of up to 90%, gradual altitude increase of 600-900 m per day, and ample recovery time, was suggested to Gautam.

For those summiting Mount Kilimanjaro, the timeframe typically ranges from a minimum of 5 days to a maximum of 11 days. The Lemosho route, chosen by Gautam, is recommended for individuals without prior trekking experience who have not climbed more than 3,000 to 4,000 m previously.

As altitude increases, individuals frequently encounter High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE) and High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE), experiencing symptoms like dizziness and nausea, and in severe cases, cognitive impairment hindering normal functioning.

"A July 2023 adventure planned by my brother turned into a daunting yet exhilarating journey, especially upon the first sight of Mount Kilimanjaro, which sparked doubts about my ability to conquer it. Despite initial apprehensions, experiencing minimal symptoms of HACE and HAPE filled me with excitement as I summited Mount Kilimanjaro with my brother, who works in Dublin. This journey taught me that sometimes, a lack of extensive research can help us overlook the negatives and embrace opportunities we often overlook," Gautam said.

The eight-lane corridor, built at a cost of Rs 102 crore, at Okalipuram Junction. Top: The railway underbridge. Work started on the project in 2015 | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

8-lane signal-free corridor at Okalipuram Jn all set to open

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has completed the Rs 102-crore eight-lane signal-free corridor at Okalipuram Junction. Work on the the project started in 2015 and is expected to be inaugurated in a few days.

The civic body paid Rs 156 crore to the Railway Department for land acquisition and has completed the installation of four concrete boxes under the Tumakuru-Bengaluru railway line. Similarly, of the four boxes under the Chennai-Bengaluru railway line, the BBMP has to install one box which will be completed soon. Traffic is allowed from the underpasses at the Tumakuru-Bengaluru railway line side and vehicles can reach the KSR Railway station from both front and back entries.

"The work on the underbridge at Chennai-Bengaluru railway line at Okalipuram is challenging as the route is more busy compared to other tracks due to trains to Chennai/Bengaluru. The box installation work and other civil works take place only between 12.30 am and 4 am," said an official, adding that even the Railway Department had spent around Rs 80 crore for the Chennai-Bengaluru and Tumakuru-Bengaluru under bridges.

The BBMP always received complaints about traffic congestion in areas surrounding Majestic, especially from the Malleswaram and Rajajinagar side towards Majestic railway station. Hence in 2013, the works were ordered but these began only in July 2015.

"The Palike also constructed a flyover to connect the entry and exit to the old railway station and the signal-free route is helping the commuters reach the station on time even during peak hours," added a senior BBMP engineer.

Mantri Serenity, Kanakpura Road, and Mantri Webcity, Hennur, concluded their five-day Valentine's Day celebration on Sunday. Under the theme 'Key to Your Heart, Key to Your Home', activities for all age groups, including movie screenings, dance competitions, standup comedy and a laser show were held. A magic show was also organised for children | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

K'TAKA BUDGET 2024-25 DECODED

BUDGET FOR HEALTHCARE SEEMS WELL BALANCED

THE Karnataka budget has many plus points for the healthcare sector. It is good that they have set up many state-of-the-art critical care blocks across many districts of the state and are building new taluk-level hospitals and renovating old buildings. This will certainly add to the critical care services which were the need of society and became obvious during Covid-19. This is unique and necessary way to take healthcare to the masses.

The setting up of a child hospital in Bengaluru and the provision of 24/7 emergency healthcare services to rural people with the upgradation of community health centres and building of primary health centres is commendable and the need of the hour. Emphasis on primary care health and wellness centres and strengthening of district hospitals with tele-ICU systems is again a necessity, especially with the epidemic of noncommunicable diseases increasing in the country and am glad the government is implementing it.

Dr Sudarshan Ballal,
Chairman,
Manipal Hospitals

There is a dire need for cancer care and chemotherapy centres in view of huge increase in the number of cancers and it is welcome that the government has set up daycare therapy centres in each district for various cancers and is also working on early diagnosis of cancers in women. Treatment of acute MI at the earliest can save lives and the hub-and-spoke model at all taluk hospitals is a welcome move.

Investment in the diagnosis of tuberculosis and other illnesses and budgetary allocation for safety measures including firefighting systems in district hospitals is another welcome measure. In addition to setting up new medical colleges, a huge grant that is going to be provided for the construction and purchase of equipment for medical colleges will certainly increase the supply of doctors and hopefully, they will be adequately staffed. Since severe kidney disease numbers are increasing, the extension of a 40-bed nephro-uro hospital in Mysuru to a 100-bed hospital will help a large number of patients on dialysis.

Upgradation of hospitals by investing in state-of-the-art robotic surgical machines, modular OTs and setting up of super-specialty hospitals in various parts of the state will improve tertiary and quaternary care in the state. Multiple projects in areas of women and child development will go a long way in improving paediatric care and child health and women's health. Strengthening Anganwadis and support to caregivers of people with neurological disabilities is again a much-needed investment.

In conclusion, the budget for healthcare overall seems well-balanced, taking into consideration, primary and preventive health, promoting wellness and health in rural and semi-urban areas, child and maternal health, critical care and emergency services which became very important during the Covid times, super-specialty services and also the care of the differently abled. It also addresses the need for increased healthcare professionals in the state, but the proof of the pudding as always would be dependent on how well this is implemented.

EXPRESS READ

BU gets grant of ₹100 cr from Centre

Bangalore University (BU) has received a Rs 100-crore grant under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) scheme under the Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MERU) category. Among 1,472 universities in the country, only 26 received this financial support. The grant will be used for teaching, learning, research, innovation, and overall academic development. The allocation covers various facets such as research initiatives, academic enhancements, skill-based training programs, placement, and fostering entrepreneurial collaborations. ENS

Drone flying to foster curiosity in kids

To boost cognitive and physical abilities in schoolchildren, Narayana Health has launched an initiative to help students of Classes 8 and 9 master the skill of drone flying. The programme, crafted in collaboration with NeoSky Drones, aims to foster curiosity, innovation and hands-on learning among children. Dr Devi Shetty, Founder and Chairman of Narayana Health, emphasised the significance of nurturing curiosity and inspiring innovation in young minds. The 'Flight of Dreams' project, which integrates drones into healthcare, involves fostering curiosity and innovation. ENS

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

19TH February: There's a special celestial relationship this week - a challenging one between Venus, planet of love, and Uranus, symbol of revolution and hope. This has a very clear meaning - that the mood of the times favours people who are prepared to stand up for themselves but not - and this is very important - at the cost of partners' feelings.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The pressure of the last few weeks should now be over. At least you, like most other people, have now adapted to the status quo. Over the next few days you'll have all the time you need for self-reflection. The most important people you meet this week are likely to be out-of the-ordinary and, potentially, an enormous force for change.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Mars is hanging around the inspirational sectors of your chart, and you might well be carried away on a flight of fancy. But remember that, for the coming few weeks, you must take a stronger line than usual over financial affairs and business arrangements.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You often have it all your own way, mainly by the simple art of spreading your options around but, on many recent occasions, people have expected you to cave in and agree to their demands. The situation is now shifting quite rapidly, and you will be urged to stand your ground and not give way.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
No matter how stressful the past few months have seemed, it is time for plain thinking. Even those Cancerians who have been on a high must now take a very down-to-earth and matter-of-fact approach to all personal matters. In other words, take control!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
The focus is on other people. This means, inevitably, that you must stand aside and allow partners, colleagues and friends to hog the limelight. If you attempt to take the lead, you must expect to be unceremoniously toppled. But if you're generous in defeat then your chivalry will never be forgotten.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You may have to be on the move, but there is no knowing what can be accomplished personally and professionally. As long as Mercury, planet of thought and reason, is moving so erratically, the future remains obscure, but that's because the possibilities are so amazing.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Although an indirect approach may be best, you could still fail to get your message across. If, on the other hand, you are dealing with insoluble mysteries and intangible questions, you may be on safer ground. Also, of course, your individual gifts are becoming more marked by the day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You're probably going to have little choice but to deal with domestic questions or family affairs. There's just no way certain people can be properly handled if you only allow them a little of your time. Do your bit and give them all the attention they need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
In spite of your reputation for being a tower of strength, you do have a number of reservations about allowing other people to rely on you. Neither should you permit anyone to push you too far. It seems that your best policy is to establish proper boundaries.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Let's turn our attention back to the amazing alignments of Jupiter and Saturn. You really do seem to believe that it is your prerogative to put the world to rights, and you may well be quite correct. But watch out, because you might also have to foot the bill.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
By rights the day should kick off to a good start, although I'll wager that more of you than usual will have experienced some sort of strange dream or broken night. Whatever is on your plate, domestic questions are not about to answer themselves, so get down to the nitty-gritty.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
While the Sun is so positive, you must make the development of partnerships, both personal and professional, your principal goal. Don't expect dramatic results, but look for interesting openings which can be developed later - and try to surround yourself with useful people.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

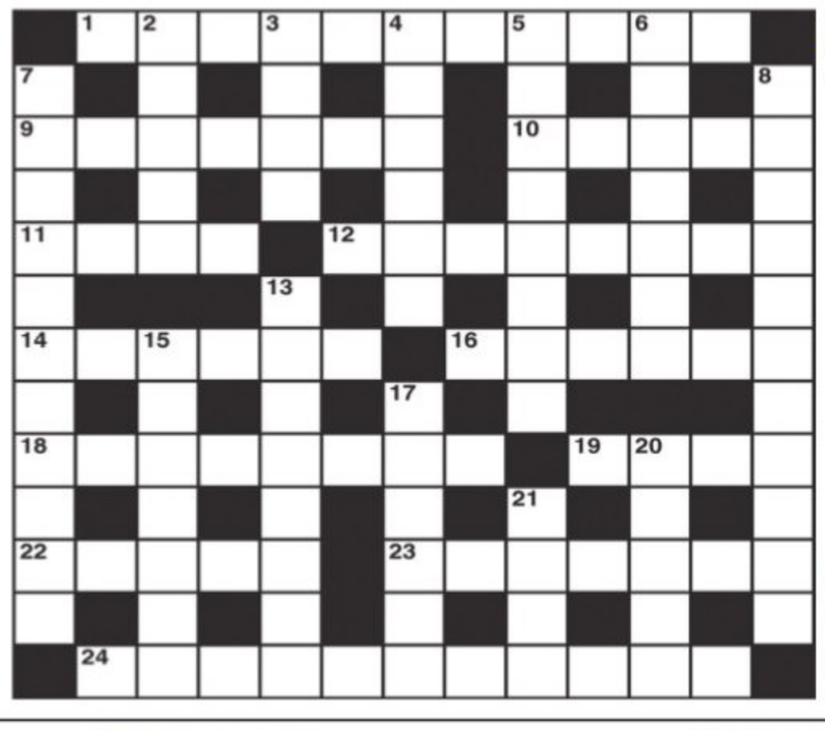
		1		2	8	4		
			5	3	6			8
6			1			5		
		6		1				5
3	1						4	2
5				9		6		
		4			2			6
1			6	7	9			
		3	4	8		9		

1	9	3	7	5	4	6	2	8
5	6	7	2	9	8	4	3	1
2	8	4	6	3	1	9	7	5
7	3	8	5	1	6	2	4	9
4	5	2	8	7	9	3	1	6
9	1	6	3	4	2	5	8	7
8	4	1	9	2	5	7	6	3
3	2	9	1	6	7	8	5	4
6	7	5	4	8	3	1	9	2

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Return from work at the end of the week? (4-4,3)
9 Set one's sights higher and improves (5,2)
10 Cut with a pointed whip (5)
11 I leave the chief cook in charge (4)
12 Clear and complicated dates listed (8)
14 Produced the rent (6)
16 Embrace that really fixes things (6)
18 An old story that bears fruit (8)
19 Toss a coin to find one who is so admired (4)
22 French friend to leave Spanish friend (5)
23 In steel, perhaps, but capable of being stretched (7)
24 Drove one mad - so maudlin (11)

DOWN

2 Fuss about worship (5)
3 I leave Elsie instead (4)
4 His parents will be late (6)
5 It changes later, yes, towards the sunrise (8)
6 A company on leave (7)
7 Expert on current problems (11)
8 Unable to span the production schedule? (5-6)
13 Broken boot-tree found in the garden (8)
15 Exact point covered by the summary (7)
17 It's regular trade practice (6)
20 Country requiring careful handling (5)
21 Soon it may be nameless (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Piston, 4 Chaperon, 9 Leaves, 10 Artistes, 12 Suds, 13 Sleet, 14 Trio, 17 Differential, 20 Oceanography, 23 Aims, 24 Geese, 25 Bang, 28 Scarcity, 29 Cinema, 30 Portrays, 31 Census.

Down: 1 Palisade, 2 Standoff, 3 Open, 5 Harvest mouse, 6 Pair, 7 Rotary, 8 Nestor, 11 Illegal entry, 15 Peach, 16 Padre, 18 Speakers, 19 Eyeglass, 21 Pays up, 22 Impair, 26 Scar, 27 Vice.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

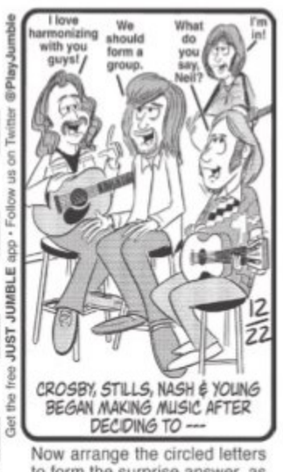
BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

TOQAU

NDLEB

GUEONH

IREVNT


I love harmonizing with you guys!
We should form a group.
What do you say, Neil?
I'm in!
CROSBY, STILLS, NASH & YOUNG BEGAN MAKING MUSIC AFTER DECIDING TO ---
12/22
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FULLY STOMP WOODEN STRAND
Answer: After they bought a new energy-efficient washer and dryer, they saved — LOADS OF MONEY

THE MAHAKUMBH

OF BUSINESS INVESTORS

Investment Projects
Worth
₹10
LAKH CRORE+

Inauguration of
NEW INDIA'S GROWTH ENGINE
GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY @4.0
— 19 FEB 2024 • LUCKNOW —

34 LAKH+
JOB OPPORTUNITIES

by

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

In the august presence of

Anandiben Patel
Governor
Uttar Pradesh

Rajnath Singh
Minister of Defence
Govt. of India

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister
Uttar Pradesh

Keshav Prasad Maurya
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Brajesh Pathak
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'
Minister, Industrial Development, Export Promotion
NRI & Investment Promotion, Uttar Pradesh

Jaswant Singh Saini
Minister of State, Parliamentary Affairs &
Industrial Development, Uttar Pradesh

AND OTHER DIGNITARIES

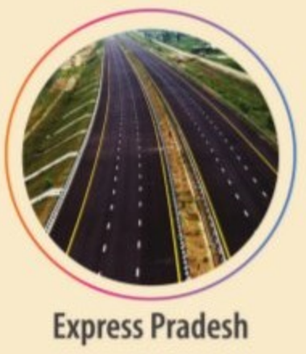
Electronics Manufacturing Hub

MSMEs Hub

Defence Industrial Corridor

Airport Pradesh

Metro Pradesh


Express Pradesh

Date : 19th February, 2024 | Time : 12:00 PM
Venue : Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

LIVE TELECAST DD NEWS & Youtube.com/DDNEWS
Youtube.com/dduttarpradesh and UPGovtOfficial CMOUttarpradesh CMOfficeUP

Information and Public Relations Department, U.P.

RISING CANCER RATES IN K'TAKA CALL FOR EARLY DETECTION

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

AMID escalating incidence of cancer in Karnataka, early diagnosis emerges as the only critical imperative. A report suggests an average annual increase of 1% in cancer cases among men and women in Karnataka. Still, despite the sombre statistics, it is essential to acknowledge that not all cancers are fatal.

Dr Niti Raizada, Senior Director of Medical Oncology and Hemato Oncology, Fortis Hospital, said, "It is crucial to dispel the myth that cancer is untreatable. Approximately, 50% of cancers are curable and all cancers are treatable to some extent."

Treatment approaches differ from person to person, depending on the patient's condition. While the primary focus is fighting cancer, in some cases, addressing the patient's needs can alleviate half of the problem. For instance, assisting a person who struggles with independent restroom use or managing pain can significantly improve their quality of life.

Researchers advocate people to go for treatment rather than resigning to the belief that a cancer diagnosis marks the onset of inevitable suffering. Investing in treatment is not futile, it offers hope and a possibility of improvement.

Also, a patient should avoid comparing their cancer symptoms with those of others because cancer manifests differently in different persons. It is a multifactorial complex disease influenced by age, gender, and personal history.Even individuals of the same age can exhibit varying results due to differences in their screening protocols and treatment plans, which are done based on numerous factors.

Understanding the difference between screening and prevention is crucial, Dr Niti said and explained that prevention involves safeguarding oneself entirely from a disease. For instance, in cervical and breast cancers, which are most prevalent, prevention is achievable through receiving the HPV vaccine for cervical cancer and hepatitis B vaccine to lower the risk of liver cancer. These vaccines are effective in significantly reducing the chances of developing these cancers and provide comprehensive protection against their onset.

Screening, on the other hand, aids in the early detection of diseases and enhances the effectiveness of treatment, she added. Technological advances constantly improve the effectiveness of treatments. Now, every single patient is treated slightly differently than others because of the evolution of technology.

While recent studies indicate that cancer is increasingly detected among individuals in their 40s, with breast and oral cancer being the most detected, it is crucial to recognise that this trend is subject to change.

Cancer is a multifaceted illness with various potential causes, though factors like tobacco use, excessive alcohol consumption and exposure to pollutants are known contributors, the precise activities leading to cancer remain unidentified.

The state is observing a rise in early-stage cancer cases, which are manageable with treatment. People are encouraged to maintain regular vaccination schedules, undergo screenings and address any unusual symptoms, particularly if there is a family history of pancreatic, ovarian, or breast cancer, as these types are hereditary.

BIG PICTURE

THE MOST PREVALENT CANCERS IN MALES
- Lung
- Oral
- Prostate
- Stomach
- Liver
- Colorectal
- Esophagus

THE MOST PREVALENT CANCERS IN FEMALES
- Breast
- Cervical
- Oral and Lip

THE MOST CURABLE CANCERS
- Breast
- Prostate
- Thyroid
- Cervical
- Testicular
- Melanoma

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

> It is crucial to dispel the myth that cancer is untreatable. Approximately, 50% of cancers are curable and all cancers are treatable to some extent
> — Dr Niti Raizada, Senior Director of Medical Oncology and Hemato Oncology, Fortis Hospital

NOT ALL CANCERS ARE HEREDITARY OR FAMILIAL

Approximately 5 to 10 per cent of cancers stem from inherited harmful mutations, while the remaining 90 to 95 percent result from mutations occurring through multiple factors including environmental factors and radiation. Examples of hereditary cancers include breast, ovarian, and pancreatic cancer.

CANCER MYTHS CANCER IS CONTAGIOUS

Cancer typically does not spread from person to person and is not considered contagious. The only scenario where cancer can transfer from one person to another is through organ or tissue transplantation.

Pollution in our food, air, water, minds creating cancer cascade

Dr VISHAL RAO US
Group Director for Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and Robotic Surgery, HCG Cancer Centre

ACCORDING to reports from leading global healthcare agencies, cancer incidence in India is likely to rise by 50% in the coming decade. Within the broader context of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD), nearly one in three citizens is likely to succumb to one or the other NCD ailment in the coming years. Ironically enough, we may have the ignoble privilege of choosing the type of NCD to be our triumphant nemesis.

Typically, when a middle-aged person, outwardly in the pink of health, comes to an oncologist with the defining symptoms of some or other cancer and the biopsy report confirms the worst fears, the visibly distraught person asks on an impulse: "Why me?"

The doctor struggles to put forth a convincing reply to someone who has led an extremely healthy lifestyle, exercised regularly, maintained a balanced diet, and had no addiction whatsoever. Yet, cancer has managed to invade the system. Why and how? Why are cancers rising at such an unforgiving pace?

If we could read the mind of a cancer cell, we would know that the cancer cell merely wants to grow and invade a healthy cell system and that too instantly and without limits, and it's invariably hungry for more.

Think back for a second, aren't we all doing the same? Think of our craving for the instant, the unlimited, and more – whether food, wealth, power, or influence. Technology is bringing us closer to distant corners of the world, but distancing us from people right next to us, which is affecting our health in unknown ways.

Pollution in our food, air, water and minds has created a cancer cascade. Most concerning of all trends are the new-age diet plans which are devoid of nutrition. Pesticides, preservatives, adulterants and degreening agents are the hallmarks of the new embellished diet recipes. They artificially prolong the life of our food and their shelf life, and provide instant pleasure to satiate the demands of our palate. This is the very recipe for the creation of a cancer mindset within our normal regulated cells.

No wonder, we rank high on agri-food rejects to the USA & EU, given the detection of mycotoxins, microbial contamination, veterinary drug residues, heavy metals, unauthorised food additives and pesticide residues. If this is the quality of our exports, we can imagine the standards for internal consumption within the country. The infamous Maggi trial triggered a much-needed debate on food safety but it has exposed only the tip of the iceberg.

The Food Standard and Safety Act of India is a comprehensive Act. We need stringent regulation and implementation of this Act across the length and breadth of the country to penalise and prevent unscrupulous food practices. At the same time, we need to demolish the toxic 'buy one, get three free' loop, or else we will innovate illness in the endless pursuit of material contentment. That is the only way to protect our most important asset: Our Health!

I-T freezing Cong accounts political vendetta: HM

ENS @ Bengaluru

HOME Minister **Dr G Parameshwara** on Sunday lashed out at the Centre that there is a political vendetta behind the Income Tax (I-T) department freezing the bank accounts of the Congress. "The BJP-led Union government has decided to somehow trouble the Congress in the wake of the Lok Sabha polls," he told reporters.

The Supreme Court has banned political parties from giving out electoral bonds going forward, which may have led the I-T department to freeze the Congress' bank accounts, he claimed, adding, "They (I-T) could have asked for the details of the electoral bonds the party had received till date, instead of freezing the accounts." The SC has sought details about the bonds given out by the Congress, and there was no need for Income Tax officials to freeze the accounts, he observed.

"If we see all this (freezing of the accounts), we feel that the Centre is deliberately out to disturb us, which is why only the Congress has been targeted," he alleged.

POLL POSE

Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa and his sons, BJP MP BY Raghavendra and BJP MLA and state party president BY Vijeyendra, attend the BJP's national council meeting in New Delhi on Sunday | EXPRESS

Siddu slams JDS-BJP, claims guarantee beneficiaries will reward Cong in polls

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

CHIEF Minister **Siddaramaiah**, keen to wrest the Mandya Lok Sabha seat, on Sunday stepped up his attack on BJP and JDS, which have come together for the Lok Sabha elections in the state. Slamming JDS state president HD Kumaraswamy and BJP leaders for opposing the guarantees, he said beneficiaries of these schemes will reward Congress and help it win 20 LS seats.

While BJP is claiming to repeat the previous Lok Sabha election performance of winning 27 seats, people will give their mandate in favour of Congress, he claimed. There is only one opposition party in the state now, as JDS has merged with BJP and is dancing to the tunes of the saffron party, he said. JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda, who had once said he wanted to be reborn as a Muslim, has joined BJP and has been praising PM Narendra Modi, eschewing his party's secular character. JDS, which was reduced from 39 to 19 seats in the Assembly election and faced the threat of vanishing from state politics by next elections, has joined hands with BJP, he said. "Those who are against the poor cannot understand the budget, which has envisioned the overall development of the state. We will further step up development if the Centre gives us the state's share of Rs 1.87 lakh crore," he said.

Pointing at development works worth Rs 370 crore in Malavalli, he said the Congress government will not fail to keep up the words like JDS-BJP and questioned the contribution of opposition parties for the development of Malavalli and Mandya district. He said 155 crore women have used free bus service under the Shakti scheme and claimed that the Anna Bhagya is continuing despite the noncooperation of the Union government. He said Congress lost the previous Assembly election as it did not fully apprise the people of fulfilling 158 out of the 165 guarantees promised in the previous election manifesto. This time, the party will take all the programmes to the doorsteps of the people and tell them that Modi is the only PM who lies as his promise of bringing back black money and generating two crore jobs have failed.

'Modi has copied Siddu's guarantees'

Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy on Sunday criticised PM Narendra Modi for allegedly copying Congress' guarantees and claiming them to be Centre's. He said many states appreciate CM Siddaramaiah's governance, terming him the only leader to take on the Modi government. Speaking at an event in Mandya, he said the government has implemented five guarantees to bail out the poor. Criticising BJP for boycotting the state budget, he said the government has given prominence to the overall development of the state.

Presenting, passing budget mandatory, GP chiefs told

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI @Kalaburagi

PERHAPS for the first time in the history of the RDPR Department, the minister holding the portfolio has written to presidents of all gram panchayats, reminding them of their duty of preparing the budget and presenting it in gram panchayat meetings.

Priyank Kharge, who is the RDPR minister, wrote letters to GP presidents, which TNIE has access to, on February 8, reminding them of their duties and responsibilities.

Kharge has stated that as per the Karnataka Grama Swaraj and Panchayat Act 1993, GPs have to prepare their budget every year based on the grants they receive and collection of different taxes from the public at GPs. They have to mention the details of the amount they have in the GPs and the proposal of taking up various developmental activities in the budget, and it is compulsory. The budget should be prepared and passed before March 10. The budget presentation should be sent to the taluk panchayats concerned, he added.

Kharge said on Sunday that he wrote to GP presidents as the Congress government wants to bring in transparency. The people in villages have the right to know what their GPs are doing. If the budget is passed, it should be pasted on the notice board, allowing people to know about their Panchayats' activities and financial position. The government will also get a clear picture on the financial position and the needs of GPs. Wherever there is a need for more grants, the government will definitely respond, he added.

EXPRESS READ

FORMER PM DEVE GOWDA DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL IN BENGALURU

BENGALURU: Former prime minister and JDS supremo **HD Deve Gowda**, who was admitted to Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, here on Thursday morning, was discharged on Sunday afternoon. The Rajya Sabha member was admitted, following complaints of respiratory illness and fever. Dr Satya Narayana Mysore, HOD and Consultant, Pulmonology, and lung transplant physician at Manipal Hospitals, said, "The former PM is fit and functional."

BC HOSTELS IN TUMAKURU FACE RICE CRUNCH, SIDDAGANGA MUTT STEPS IN

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Tumakuru

AFTER the allotment of rice by the Food and Civil Supplies Department to the hostels in Tumakuru run by the Backward Classes Department got delayed, the Siddaganga Mutt came to the rescue of students.

According to sources, the hostels in Sira and Tumakuru faced rice shortage. But Tumakuru officials managed to get 180 quintals of rice from Siddangana Mutt on a barter system in December to feed nearly 2,000 students in 18 hostels.

Sources said that officials in a few other taluks have managed to get rice by either bartering from other hostels or procuring it from the open market for an exorbitant price.

The government allots rice to the district every quarter and the district officer procures the rice from FCI godowns at a subsidised rate of Rs 6 per kg.

"The district was supposed to get the rice from the Food and Civil Supplies Department in October 2023. But we got it only in January 2024. Since Tumakuru taluk received rice from the mutt, we did not procure more rice from FCI as we too have a shortage of godowns to stock it. The rice allotted to us remains at the FCI safely," maintained District Backward Classes officer Gangappa.

He also said that bartering rice from the mutt's hostels, which have over 2,200 students, is normal as it is located nearby. "But If we fail to lift the rice from the FCI in time it lapses," an official said.

Administrative officer of Siddaganga Mutt Vishwanathaiah confirmed that the mutt gave the rice to the hostels following an official request. The mutt gets the rice from devotees and donors.

It may be noted here that the state government was at loggerheads with the Centre for turning down an appeal to supply rice to its 'Anna Bhagya' scheme.

> Since Tumakuru taluk received rice from the mutt, we did not procure more rice from FCI as we too have a shortage of godowns to stock it
> — Gangappa, District backward Classes officer

A 23-year-old man attacked another man after the latter's bike brushed his two-wheeler. The accused has been identified as Rakesh, a cab driver. The incident took place in HAL police station limits and was captured on a commuter's dash cam. It was reported on X by the witness, who tagged the Bengaluru City Police on February 1. A case has been registered

'Bribe demands needn't be frequent, verbal'

Lokayukta spl court hands 3-year rigorous imprisonment, Rs 1 lakh fine to bill collector

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

DEFINING that frequent and repeated demands of bribe need not necessarily be required at every step from the stage of pre-trap or till the time of the trap, the Special Court for Lokayukta cases sentenced H Murthy, a bill collector attached to the Sonnappanahalli Gram Panchayat in Bengaluru Urban district to undergo three-year rigorous imprisonment and pay a fine of Rs 1 lakh in a trap case.

Noting that the demand for bribe need not necessarily be verbal, but can be by way of gestures and other signals, Judge KM Radhakrishna said that nowadays, large-scale corruption everywhere has not only become a curse to the common people, but also a dangerous signal to the healthy and welfare society. Murthy was trapped by the then ACB sleuths while he was accepting a bribe of Rs 6,000 to issue an e-khata to the complainant, Mahendra RT, on November 24, 2017.

The counsel of the accused contended that there was no work of the complainant pending before the accused as on the date of the trap nor he was competent to issue the e-khata as a bill collector. The allegation of demand and acceptance of the illegal gratification is baseless, he argued.

But the court said the complaint and evidence demonstrate that the accused had taken the responsibility to get the work done. No need to say the panchayat development officer (PDO) is competent to effect the e-khata with the approval of the gram panchayat as per the procedure. As seen in the cross-examination, the PDO has completed his part of the work as on the date of the trap. The document issued by the GP relating to the service details and distribution of the work to the accused clearly reveals that the work was pending, the court said. It also ruled out the contention of the accused that there was no work of the complaint pending before him and he handed over the e-khata order copy to the complainant at 8 pm at the place of trap which proves the pendency of the work.

Firefighters inspect the scrapyard that was completely destroyed by blasts, in Ramasandra, Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Police suspect workers filling expired shampoo into new bottles caused fire

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THERE was an explosion and the entire place was engulfed in fire. While five of them managed to run out of the place with severe burns, three others got stuck inside and were charred to death.

Two fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the fire. Since most of the substances being used were highly-flammable and chemical-based, there were multiple explosions. Three vehicles, including a car, an autorickshaw and a two-wheeler parked at the spot, were also gutted in the fire. Besides, the buildings next to the yard were also partially damaged in the incident, the police added.

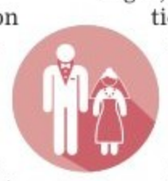
The police suspect that the workers were also involved in filling up expired shampoo into new bottles at the place. "While fire and forensic experts are probing to know the exact cause of the fire, it is suspected that a spark while infusing chemicals into bottles might have led to the tragedy," a police officer said. Ramanagara SP Karthik Reddy, who rushed to the spot, said it was, prima facie, found that the workers were manufacturing perfumes. "The unit was rented by Saleem just a month ago. The reason for the fire will be ascertained by forensic science experts," he added.

The place is owned by one Vittal, who rented it out to Saleem. The bodies were shifted to Rajarajeshwari Medical College and Hospital for autopsy. A case is registered at the Kumbalgodu police station.

Kin arrange 14-year-old girl's marriage, one held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Sarjapura police have arrested a person, while eight others are absconding, in connection with a child marriage case.



Police said that on Thursday, the grandmother of the 14-year-old victim and relatives planned her marriage with a 25-year-old man, who runs a hair-dressing outlet. The girl's father, a daily-wage labourer, left his job eight months ago and since then, he has spiralled into alcoholism. Following this, the girl's mother started a tea shop to earn for the family. The parents had then sent their only daughter to her grandmother's house in Sarjapura, the police said.

Mallikarjun Baladandi, Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru Rural district, said, "On February 15, the girl, a Class-8 student, was coerced into the marriage by her relatives at a temple in Sarjapura. On the same day, the girl visited her mother's house at night, where her mother noticed her wearing a mangalsutra. The girl then recounted the entire incident to her mother, who proceeded to file a police complaint."

The police have booked a case against the girl's relatives, as well as the groom's parents, who are residents of Hoskote. The victim's paternal uncle, Srinivas, has been arrested, while the others including the victim's 63-year-old grandmother are absconding.

The Sarjapura police have registered a case under POCSO and The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

EXPRESS READ

Three held for extortion calls from prison

BENGALURU: Three, including a rowdy sheeter, have been arrested for making extortion calls from prison to a woman. Manu alias Manoj alias Kencha, his associates Yogesh and Subhash were arrested by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) police following a complaint lodged by a 43-year-old woman with the Yelahanka New Town police. The woman alleged that a rowdy sheeter lodged at Bengaluru Central Prison in Parappana Agrahara was blackmailing her with morphed pictures and videos of her daughter, threatening to forward these to her son-in-law if she does not give him money. On February 9, the complainant got a call from Manu's accomplice, Karthik, who demanded Rs 5 lakh. When she refused to pay, Manu, who has been threatening her since August, again threatened her saying that he would upload the images on social media platforms, according to the complaint. The police are yet to arrest Karthik and others involved in the case.

BOILER EXPLOSION CLAIMS 62-YR-OLD WORKER'S LIFE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 62-year-old worker died after a boiler exploded at a silk reeling factory in Ramanagara district. The incident occurred in Ramanagara Town police station limits at 4 pm, when the deceased, Sanaullah Khan, was cleaning the boiler while the regulator switch was on.

Khan, a resident of Tippu Nagar, went to clean the boiler, after he was done with his work of separating silk thread from the silk nest at the factory.

The boiler consists of an analog meter and a steam controller which indicates the pressure. Khan failed to check this and began cleaning, assuming that the regulator switch was off. As the boiler was already overheated, it exploded when steam was released by Khan, police added.

The factory employs 18 workers, but Khan was the only one working at the time of the incident, which came to light when one of the neighbourhood residents informed the police after hearing the explosion.

The police have arrested Akram, the owner of the factory, on charges of negligence.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the undersigned advocate on behalf of my client **Srinivas.P.V** have filed the petition for death certificate of **Gerappa @ Anneppa S/o Late.Junjappa expired on 06-05-2005** at Papanahalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli,Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. If any of the parties who have objections or claims may dispute regarding the same could and same any other interested persons appear before the ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE and J.M.F.C at Devanahalli on date of hearing **on 27/3/2024 at 11-00 AM in C.Mis No. 56/2024**

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
Sri Alfiya .M, Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOW TO ALL MEN that, my clients, Smt. Keerthi Mugalihalli Shivashankar, d/o Shivashankar M.G and Sri. Cheeranahalli Gurumurthy Chandan S/o Gurumurthy C.M, intend to purchase the property which is fully described in the schedule given hereunder from Smt. Kempamma, w/o Krishnappa, R/at Heligehalli Colony, Maththikere Post, Maadabal Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District.

Any person/Govt./Local Bodies claiming any right, title or interest over the said property any inform the same to my client in writing within 15 days from today.

If objections are not received within that date my client will go ahead with the purchase and no further objection will be valid after that.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Site No.43, out of sites formed in Sy.No.348/1 & 384/2 of Kempapura Agrahara Village, Bengaluru, as per BDA approved Sanction Layout Plan No. BDA.TPM/1322/89-90, dtd:01.01.1990, formed by Sri Basaveshwara House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd; presently having Municipal No.43, PID No.40-207-43, in BBMP Ward No.132, situated in 2nd stage of Basaveshwar HBCS, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, in total 2400 Sq.ft, having 85 squares of Commercial Building consisting of ground floor & 3 upper floors and is bounded on:

East by : Site No.46, West by : Road, North by : Site No.42, South by : Site No.44

G.R. Gangadhara, Advocate
431, 2nd Floor, Alankar Pearl Plaza, K.G.Road, Bengaluru-560009. Mob: +91 9740296679
Email : grgangadhara@gmail.com
Place: Bengaluru Date: 18.02.2024

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL II AT BANGALORE
B.S.N.L BUILDING, 4TH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU
O.A.NO: 799 of 2023

BETWEEN:
CANARA BANK, BTM LAYOUT BRANCH - I, BANGALORE - 560 076 ...APPLICANT.
AND
M/s. BEACON BUILDERS, Represented by its Partners & OTHERS ..... DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS/NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PRCEDURE) RULES, 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To,
DEF 3: MRS. GHAZALA ASMA, W/o. Mr. Habibulla Khan, Aged about 50 years, Partner, M/s. Beacon Builders, No. 95, 6th Main, Opp: Maruthi Park, Maruthi Layout, BTM 1st Stage, BANGALORE - 560 059

Whereas the Applicant has instituted the Application U/s. 19 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against the Defendants for recovery of sum of **Rs. 1,43,35,000=00** along with interest at 12.00 % p.a. compounded monthly on the OD Facility and at 12.30 % p.a. compounded monthly on WCTL Facility and at 11.60% p.a. compounded monthly on CFITL from date of application till date of recovery and other reliefs. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of the summons on or before **02-05-2024 at 10:30 AM** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of the Tribunal this the **01st Day of Feb, 2024** at Bangalore.

Sd/- Signature of the Officer
(Authorized to issue Summons)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II BANGALORE - 560 001

FORM NO. 14: [See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- I KARNATAKA (BENGALURU)
BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore
DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC 113/2023 20-12-2023
Canara Bank
-- Versus --
M/s. Micans Body Care Private Limited

In The Matter of:
(CH-1) Canara Bank (Erstwhile Syndicate Bank) Sanjaynagar Branch, No.158, AECS Layout, Near Police Station, Sanjayanagar Main Road, Bengaluru -560094. ....Appplicant Bank/Certificate Holder
----Versus -----
To,
(CD-1) M/s.Micans Body Care Private Limited, Having its Registered office at: Shed No.4, Revanasiddehwara Badavane, 7th Cross, Lakshmipura Main Road Abbigere, Chikkbanavara Post, Bengaluru-560090. Represented by its Managing Director Sri Bhargavaraman, Residing at: No.40/11-4, 10th Cross, Govindaraja Nagar, Magadi Main Road, Bengaluru -560040. ....Defendant/Certificate Debtor

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BENGALURU (DRT 1) in **OA/1309/2017** an amount of **Rs. 62,51,982.41 (Rupees Sixty Two Lakhs Fifty One Thousands Nine Hundred Eighty Two And Paise Forty One Only)** along with cost, expenses and future interest @16.20%p.a. (Exclusive of 2% penal interest) w.e.f. **17/11/2017** till realization and costs of **Rs. 1,03,255 (Rupees One Lakh Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Five Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited). 2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned **on 05/02/2024 at 10:30 a.m.** for further proceedings. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this **date: 20 December 2023.**
Sd/- RECOVERY OFFICER-I

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560001
(Notice of Demand to Defendants)
(See Rule 2 of the Second Schedule of Income Tax Act, 1961 and Section 25 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks Under Financial Institution Act, 1993)
OA No.OA.215/2004 **DCP NO.3592**

To
1. Mr. B.K. Munidutt, Proprietor, M/s. Dasuja Exports (1) No.729, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, Ashoknagar, 2nd Block, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050
2. Sri R. Prakash, No.131, Reservoir Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004
3. Sri K. Janardhan, R/a Ramamurthy Building, Nayaknari Road, Chittor District, Andhra Pradesh.

Please take notice that Certificate No. **DCP No.3592 Dated 31/1/2005** has been forwarded by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore in **OA.215/2004.**
Between:
Syndicate Bank, Gandhinagar Branch, Bangalore-560 009 ... APPLICANT
AND
Mr. B.K. Munidutt and others ...DEFENDANTS

for the recovery of an amount of **Rs.18,16,867.71** details of which are given hereunder. You are hereby required to pay the amount aforesaid within 15 days from the date of service of this notice by Demand Draft in favour of the undersigned.
2. You are informed that in case of defaults steps would be taken to realize the amount by one or more of the following modes namely:-
(a) Attachment and sale of the movable of immovable properties of defendants
(b) Arrest of the defendant and detention in prison. **(c)** By appointing a receiver for the management of the movable or immovable properties of Defendants.
3. In addition to the amount aforesaid you will also be liable for:
(a) Such interest as in payable as per decree, and **(b)** All costs incurred to realize the debt.

DETAILS OF AMOUNT MENTIONED IN THE RECOVERY CERTIFICATE:

Si. No.	ITEM	AMOUNT (in Rupees)
1	Amount Determined	1651214.71
2	Interest @16 % p.a. from 21/6/2004 to 31/1/2005	162135
3	Cost Awarded by DRT	1000
4	Paper publication fee	2518
5	Costs	1000
	TOTAL	1817867.71

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this day the **23/2/05.**
Sd/- Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore-560001

NB: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

Central Coalfields Limited
"A Miniratna Company"
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in**/ respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, **www.centralcoalfields.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/AEE(C)/2023-24/9682-84 Date:16.02.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the various Civil works in Hoddy Division through KPPP mode as mentioned below: **"Construction of retaining wall cum compound wall at left side of main entrance of HRD Centre at 220KV KPTCL Colony Premises, Hoody, Bengaluru (5th Call)".** The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging **on or after 22.02.2024.** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elec., Transmission (M), BMAZ, South Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R Circle, Bengaluru-560 009

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560001
(Notice of Demand to Defendants)
(See Rule 2 of the Second Schedule of Income Tax Act, 1961 and Section 25 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks Under Financial Institution Act, 1993)
OA. 184/2004 **DCP NO.3580**

To
1. M/s Sharadha Jewellers, No.107, Subedhar Chartram Road, Bangalore - 560 009
2. Sri.A Vivek, No.160/6, I floor, 7th Main, 48th Cross, Rajajinagar 3rd Block, Bangalore - 560 010
3. Sri. A Rajesh, No.160/6, I floor, 7th Main, 48th Cross, Rajajinagar 3rd Block, Bangalore - 560 010
4. Sri.A Ramesh, 160/6, I floor, 7th Main, 48th Cross, Rajajinagar 3rd Block, Bangalore-560 010

Please take notice that Certificate No. **DCP No. 3580 Dated 18/1/2005** has been forwarded by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore in **OA. 184/2004**
BETWEEN:
Syndicate Bank, Gandhinagar, Bangalore .... APPLICANT
AND
M/s Sharadha Jewellers and others ....DEFENDANTS

for the recovery of an amount of **Rs.13,96,069/–** details of which are given hereunder. You are hereby required to pay the amount aforesaid within 15 days from the date of service of this notice by Demand draft in favour of the undersigned.
2. you are informed that in case of defaults steps would be taken to realize the amount by one of more of the following modes namely:
(a) Attachment and sale of the movable of immovable properties of defendants
(b) Arrest of the defendant and detention in prison. **(c)** By appointing a receiver for the management of the movable or immovable properties of Defendants.
3. In addition to the amount aforesaid you will also be liable for:
(a) Such interest as in payable as per decree, and **(b)** All costs incurred to realize the debt.

DETAILS OF AMOUNT MENTIONED IN THE RECOVERY CERTIFICATE:

Si. No.	ITEM	AMOUNT (in Rupees)
1	Amount Determined	1229329
2	Interest @18.50% p.a. Compounded Quarterly from 27/4/2004 to 18/1/2005	165740
3	Cost awarded by DRT	1000
4	Costs	1000
	TOTAL	1397069

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this day the **23/2/05.**
(Sd/- Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal Bangalore –560001

NB: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: **"Rule 16(1)** where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. 2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) NISHA RAMESHKUMAR MALANI Residing at No. # B308, Acas Cresent Square, Kammanahalli, Begur Hobli, Bannerghatta Road Post, Bangalore - 560076. Have changed My Name from **(OLD NAME) NISHA RAMESHKUMAR MALANI** to **(NEW NAME) NISHA TOSHNIWAL** Vide Affidavit Dated 16.02.2024 Sworn before Notary A.Manjula Bangalore.

SBI Rajajinagar Branch (40197), 1st Block, 14th Cross, 12th Main, Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560010.
Phone No. : 080 23320440, Email: sbi.40197@sbi.co.in

NOTICE

Following Locker Holders are hereby notified that their repsective lockers will be break open on **05.03.2024** as per the laid down procedure of the bank, if they fail to pay the rental dues by **04.03.2024.**

Sl No.	SDV NO	Locker Hirer Name	Locker No	Rent Overdue
1	70402190141	Narasamma	368	Rs.20,673.00
2	70404086581	Yashwanth Kumar H	522	Rs.19,673.00
3	70404094784	M Vasudev	441	Rs.10,384.00
4	70406706286	Madhavi K G	569	Rs.37,432.00
5	70407055888	Anupama M Nadgir	577	Rs.34,127.00
6	70407149449	Vidya Bhat	377	Rs.39,833.00

Place : Bangalore
Date : 18.02.2024
Branch Manager

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Commerce and Transport Department
File No. HO/P&C/T&E-E-1924/01/2022 Dt. 17.02.2024

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. P&C/EST-E /202 /2023-24
(on behalf of Commerce & Transport Department, Govt. of Odisha)

CAD- **NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDING THROUGH e-Procurement**

1. **Name of the Work:** Development, Operation and Maintenance of Green Field Sri Jagannath International Airport on PPP mode near Sipasarubali, Puri District, Odisha for Phase-I (4.6 million mppa capacity)
2. **Value of the Work:** 2203,00,00,000 (Rupees Two Thousand Two Hundred and Three Crore), inclusive of IDC, inflation and GST for Phase-I (4.6 million mppa capacity)
3. **Period of completion:** 1095 (One thousand and ninety five) days
4. **Availability of tender online for Bidding:**
   I. Start Date: 18:00 Hours of dt. 21.02.2024
   II. Pre-bid meeting (VC) at 11.30 AM on 15.03.2024
   III. End date: 17:00 Hours of dt. 20.04.2024.
   IV. Opening date: 17:30 Hours of dt.21.04.2024

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen **in e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(P&C)
IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR- 04075/11/0002/2324

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CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail ID: crmd@cityunionbank.in, Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,53,60,133/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Three Lakh Sixty Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Three only)** as on **15-02-2024** together with further interest to be charged from **16-02-2024** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. Venkateshwara Table Bricks, Sy.No.11, Near Raghavendra Dhama, Belekere Silvepura Post, Hesarghatta Hobli, Bangalore - 560090. No.2) Mr. P. Prasanna Kumar, S/o. Mr. V. Prabhakar, No.131, "Chandra Kala Nilaya", 11th Main, Behind Kaivara Temple, Kammagondanahalli, Bangalore - 560015. No.3) Mr. V. Prabhakar, S/o. Mr. Veeraswamy, No.131, "Chandra Kala Nilaya", 11th Main, Behind Kaivara Temple, Kammagondanahalli, Bangalore - 560015.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. P. Prasanna Kumar, S/o. Mr. V. Prabhakar)

Survey Nos.7, 8 & 9, Site Bearing No.7. All that piece and parcel of Vacant Site Bearing No.7, formed in Survey Nos.7, 8 & 9 situated at Kammagondanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk now coming under the limits of BBMP Ward No.12, Bangalore, measuring:- East to West 53 feet, North to South Eastern side 40 feet, Western side 59 feet in all measuring 3,206.5 Sq.ft. and bounded off:- East by - Site No.8, West by - Site No.6, North by - Road, South by - Others Property. Situated at Kammagondanahatli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk now coming under the limits of BBMP Bangalore.

Reserve Price : Rs.72,00,000/-
(Rupees Seventy Two Lakh only)

Schedule - C : (Property Owned by Mr. P. Prasanna Kumar, S/o. Mr. V. Prabhakar)

Survey Nos.7, 8 & 9 of All that piece and parcel Southern Portion on the Western Side of House Property in Converted Survey Nos.7, 8 & 9 situated at Kammagondanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk now coming under the limits of BBMP Ward No.12, Bangalore measuring:- East to West - Northern side 53 feet, Southern side 50 feet, North to South 25 feet in all measuring 1,287.5 Sq.ft., bounded on:- East by - Passage & Property belonging to M. Shobha, West by - Others Property, North by - 6-0 feet wide passage South by - 5-0 feet wide passage. Situated at Kammagondanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk now coming under the limits of BBMP Bangalore.

Reserve Price : Rs.36,00,000/-
(Rupees Thirty Six Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
11-03-2024	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Vijay Nagar Branch, 23/1, 17th Cross, M.C. Layout, Near Maruthi Mandir, Vijay Nagar, Bengaluru Rural - 560040. Telephone No.080-23504001, Cell No.7483060906.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Vijay Nagar Branch, 23/1, 17th Cross, M C Layout, Near Maruthi Mandir, Vijay Nagar, Bengaluru Rural - 560040. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-23504001, Cell No.7483060906. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever- there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 17-02-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.24,26,01,310/- (Rupees Twenty Four Crore Twenty Six Lakh One Thousand Three Hundred and Ten only)** as on **14-02-2024** together with further interest to be charged from **15-02-2024** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. UFX Ventures Pvt. Ltd., No. 33/1, Wallajah Road, Chepauk, Chennai - 600002. Also At, M/s. UFX Ventures Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 12, 13, 14, Rajiv Gandhi Salai (OMR), Egattur Village, Siruseri, Chennai - 603103. No.2) Mr. Usman Faheed, S/o. Usman Fayaz, No. 71, 1st Avenue, 1st Cross Street, Vettuvankeni, ECR Road, Chennai - 600041. No.3) Mrs. Samia Faheed, W/o. Usman Faheed, No. 71, 1st Avenue, 1st Cross Street, Vettuvankeni, ECR Road, Chennai - 600041. No.4) M/s. Gayatri Auto Services, No. 3, Padmanabha Nagar, Adayar, Chennai - 600020. No.5) Mrs. P. Dhanalakshmi, W/o. Late V.J. Prabhakar, No. 57, Muthaiah Street, Theynampet, Chennai - 600086. No.6) Mr. Usman Fayaz, S/o. Usman Pasha, No. 71, 1st Avenue, 1st Cross Street, Vettuvankeni, ECR Road, Chennai - 600041. No.7) Mrs. F. Zubetha Begum, W/o. Usman Fayaz, No. 71, 1st Avenue, 1st Cross Street, Vettuvankeni, ECR Road, Chennai - 600041. No.8) M/s. Smart Oils, 33/1, Wallajah Road, Chepauk, Chennai - 600002. No.9) M/s. UF Printers, No. 33/1, Wallajah Road, Chepauk, Chennai - 600002. No.10) M/s. UF Promoters Pvt. Ltd., No. 33/1, Wallajah Road, Chepauk, Chennai - 600002.**

Notes: 1) That our **038-Chennai - Triplicane Branch** has also extended financial assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR:501812080049182) dated **28-02-2019** requested by No.6 of you for which No.7 of you stood as Co-obligant and Nos. 1, 8, 9 & 10 of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 50,00,000/-** at a ROI of **11%.** The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **27-12-2020** and the outstanding balance as on **14-02-2024** is **Rs. 79,69,179/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **15-02-2024** till the date of realization

2) That our **038-Chennai - Triplicane Branch** has also extended financial assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR:501812080059173) dated **26-12-2019** requested by No.3 of you for which No.2 of you stood as Co-obligant and Nos. 1, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 80,00,000/-** at a ROI of **11%.** The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **25-12-2020** and the outstanding balance as on **14-02-2024** is **Rs. 1,30,12,811/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **15-02-2024** till the date of realization

3) That our **038-Chennai - Triplicane Branch** has also extended financial assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR:501812080046591) dated **27-12-2018** requested by No. 8 of you represented by Nos. 3 & 6 of you as Partners for which Nos.3 & 6 of you stood as Co-obligants and Nos. 1, 8, 9 & 10 of you stood as Guarantors for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 75,00,000/-** at a ROI of **11%.** The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **26-12-2020** and the outstanding balance as on **14-02-2024** is **Rs. 1,21,94,536/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **15-02-2024** till the date of realization.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A: (Property Owned by M/s. UFX Ventures Pvt. Ltd.)

Schedule - "A" Property: All that piece and parcel of the Site Bearing No.820, situated at 80 feet Road, VIII Block, Koramangala Extension, Bangalore (Corporation Ward No.67) measuring East to West 24.40 metres and North to South 15.25 Metres, Totally measuring 4,000 Sq.ft. along with a Commercial Complex constructed thereon comprising of Basement, Ground, First and Second Floors and bounded on the: East by - 80' Road, West by - Site No.823 and 824, North by - Site No.821, and South by - Site No.819. **Schedule - "AA" Property:** 29.85% undivided Share, Right, Title and interest in the Schedule "A" Property measuring about 1,194.12 Sq.ft., in an undivided State. **Schedule - "AAA" Property:** A Commercial Office Space bearing Unit No.2, Comprising of the entire First Floor of the Commercial Building house known as "GOLDEN HOUSE" constructed on the property described in Schedule - A with a Super Built up area of 3,254 Sq.ft (including proportionate Share in Common Areas) with a Car Park area Specifically ear marked.

Reserve Price: Rs.3,70,00,000/-
(Rupees Three Crore Seventy Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
15-03-2024	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Koramangala Branch, 92, Z Square, Gound Floor, Jyothi Nivas College Road, Industrial Layout, 5th Block, Koramanagala, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban - 560034. Telephone No.080-25630439, Cell No.9342874657.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Koramangala Branch, 92, Z Square, Ground Floor, Jyothi Nivas College Road, Industrial Layout, 5th Block, Koramanagala, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban - 560034. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact: **Telephone No.080-25630439, Cell No.9342874657. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 17-02-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM BHAVANA, Kavoor Cross Road, Bejai, Mangaluru - 575 004. Ph: 0824-2885795, CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. I/77664/2024 **Date: 15-02-2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

MESCOM invites tender for procurement of following material as per Technical Specifications:

Tender No.	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/2023-24/IND0066	10 MVA, 33/11 KV Power Transformer with OLTC, RTCC & Accessories	8 Nos.

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **19.02.2024**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.)(Proc.)

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

MAHATRANSCO — INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

SRM e-Tender No. T-2406/MSETCL/CO/C&M/T/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001170)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Work of Construction of 220kV D/C line from CTT location around 3.93km from 400/200kV Talegaon PGCIL S/S to 220kV Chakan Phase-II S/S using O/H HTLS conductor on monopole- 3.89km along with 2X220kV end bays at 220kV Chakan Phase-II S/S under Pune zone in Maharashtra."

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. https://srmetender.mahatransco.in

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 14.02.2024.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF SPACE CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-A

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-24(A)/23-24 **Dt:16.02.2024**

Kindly refer to E-Public Tender-24/23-24 dt. 29.01.24 **"Non Destructive Testing (NDT) for Structural assessment @ PHC- I & II, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-23-098, Est. cost ₹ 12.56 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 23.02.2024**. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED

Dr.Y.S.R VIDYUT SOUDHA, CORPORATE OFFICE, ITI COLLEGE ROAD, VIJAYAWADA-520 008

E-Procurement Notice

Tender notification No: CPMPT-21, 22 & 23/2023-24 of APCPDCL/CGM (P&MM), Dt:19-02-2024

APCPDCL invites online bids under e-procurement for i) CPMPT-21/2023-24: Procurement of 60KMs of LT XLPE SINGLE CORE CABLE 95 Sq.mm ii) CPMPT- 22/2023-24: Procurement of 90,000Nos LT Metal Parts & 80,000Nos of 11KV Metal parts iii) Procurement of 300Nos 11KV vacuum interrupters of single thread and 50 Nos Double thread suitable for various makes of VCBs through AP e-Procurement portal. Tenderers can have further details and download the tender schedules from e-Procurement marketplacefrom19-02-2024i.e., https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in (Published by APCPDCL). Ph: 0866 2955455 & Email: cgmpmm.cpdcl@apcpdcl.in.

Chief General Manager / P&MM
APCPDCL, Andhra Pradesh.

Indian Overseas Bank

Yelahanka (1578): Pruthvi Mansion, Opp. Seshadripuram College, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560064.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE SECURED ASSETS

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) and guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/ physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is"** and **"Whatever there is"** on **15.02.2024** is **Rs.80,08,624.40 /- (Rupees Eighty Lakh Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Four and Forty Paise Only)** as on **15.02.2024** with further Interest and cost thereon from **16.02.2024** due to **Indian Overseas Bank,** Secured Creditor from the borrower(s) Borrower & Mortgagor **Dr. Shashikala** and **Mr. Ramesh Muniyappa,** residing at House No.62-D, 4th Floor, SHIG, 5th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560064.

The Reserve Price will be **Rs.80,27,500/- (Rs. Eighty Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only)** (Exclusive of 1% TDS) and the **Earnest Money Deposit** will be **Rs.8,02,750/- (Rs. Eight Lakh Two Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Only)**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

Schedule-A: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Old Corporation Nos.15, 15/1, 16 & 16/1 now assigned as consolidated corporation No.15, PID No.1-39-15, Situated at SM Road, Jalahalli West, Bangalore-560015, Peenya Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Previously BMP Ward No.1, Presently comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, totally measuring 4544 Square Feet out of entire measuring 22993 square feet and **Bounded on the: East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Road and Private Property.

Schedule-B: 240 Sq.ft. of Undivided Share, right, title, interest in the Schedule 'A' Property.

Schedule-C: Apartment bearing Flat No.C-002, situated in the "Ground Floor", 'C' Block, "Global Aura Project" Situated at Ward No.1, SM Road, Jalahalli West, Bangalore-560015 having super built up area of 1300 Sq.ft., consisting of two bed rooms, with vitrified flooring in the building known as "Global Aura Project" "C" Block, constructed on the Schedule 'A' property with rights to pass through the area leading to the main road and free egress and ingress and entitles for all the common areas and civic amenities and covered car parking. This property is in the name of **Dr. Shashikala N** and **Mr. Ramesh Muniyappa.**

RESERVE PRICE: Rs.80,27,500/- (Exclusive of 1% TDS)
EMD: Rs.8,02,750/- BID INCREASE AMOUNT: Rs.50,000/-

Date and time of e-auction: 22.03.2024 (date) between 10.30 A.M. to 4.30 P.M. (time) with auto extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed at the platform of **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ ibapi.**

Known encumbrance if any: Nil

Inspection Date and Time: The property can be inspected on any working day **between 10.00 am and 05.00 pm from 17.02.2024 to 21.03.2024.**

Please contact the **Yelahanka Branch Manager on the contact number 080-22950335 and 22950336, Mob. No.9176467895**

Submission of online application for Bid with EMD starts from: 21.02.2024.

Last date for submitting online application for bid with EMD amount: 21.03.2024 before 05.00 pm.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the service providers link or bank's website i.e. **www.iob.in, http://www.iob.in/TenderDetails.aspx?Tendertype=E_auction**

Date: 16.02.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Indian Overseas Bank**

This may also be treated as a Notice under Rule 8(6)/Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about holding of e-auction on the above mentioned date.

Canara Bank — EMPLOYEES HOUSING CELL BRANCH, BENGALURU

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)

South End Road Branch, No.96, South End Road, Bengaluru-560004

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]
TO BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Canara Bank, South End Road Branch, Bengaluru** had issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with Acknowledgment Due (RPAD) to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Since the notice has not been acknowledgement returned due to non-availability of addresses at the said addresses / due to evading of service of the notice sent by RPAD, notice could not be served. The contents of the said notice are mentioned herein below.

Name and Address of the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers/ Mortgagors / Guarantors : (1) Shri. PRABHU N S/o Late Narayanaswamy, No.20 Dasara Colony, 7th Main Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru- 560011.

[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

Sl. No	Loan Number and type of facility	Sanctioned Amount	Date of Sanction	Rates of Interest	O/s Liability with Interest as on date 02.02.2024
1.	Housing Loan 1173666004670	19,17,000/-	29.12.2016	7%	20,07,838/-
2.	Housing Loan 1173666005148	20,71,000/-	13.05.2021	7%	19,59,692/-
3.	Housing Loan 160000752920	8,00,000/-	28.04.2022	7%	7,47,711/-

Total Liability Amount: Rs.47,15,241/- (Rupees Forty Seven Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Forty One Only) as on **02.02.2024** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.

NPA Date : 26.01.2024 **Demand Notice Dated : 02.02.2024**

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of Site No.30, Khatha No.101, formed in Sy No.83/1, (Gramtana), situated at Gangenahalli, Chowdanayakanahalli Gram Panchayathi limit, Taverekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, Totally measuring 1200 Sq. Ft with 3 squares residential house and bounded on the : East by: Road, West by: Site No.43, North by : Site No. 31, South by: Site No.29.

You are here by called upon to pay **Canara Bank,** within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the respective amount mentioned here above, failing which **Canara Bank** will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers and the Guarantors. The powers available to **Canara Bank** under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by **Canara Bank** shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)2 of the said Act.

Date :18.02.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM

e-Procurement Short Term Tender Notice IFB Nos.132/2023-24 Dt. 31.01.2024,(2nd Call), 125/2023-24 Dt. 23.01.2024 (3rd Call) & 110/2023-24 Dt. 15.07.2023 (3rd Call)

Tender for **03 Nos. of Works** in respect of HW & HLC Division, TB Dam under 'Works' & 'Collection of Fee' categories are re- invited through 'e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	19.02.2024 at 11:00 AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time :	26.02.2024 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time :	26.02.2024 at 5:30 PM
Date of opening of PQ Stage:	26.02.2024 at 6.00 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: (IFB No.110 & 132,)	27.02.2024 at 11:00 AM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage*: (IFB No.125,)	27.02.2024 at 11:00 AM
Date of opening of TQ Stage (IFB No.125)	27.02.2024 at 3:00 PM

Further details can be seen @ https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
* Commencement Of Reverse Tendering

Ph: 08394-259114
Fax: 08394-259167

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

Indian Overseas Bank

Yelahanka (1578): Pruthvi Mansion, Opp. Seshadripuram College, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560064.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE SECURED ASSETS

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) and guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/ physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is"** and **"Whatever there is" 21.03.2024** is **Rs.89,35,691.40 (Rupees Eighty Nine Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety One and Forty Paisa Only)** with further Interest and cost thereon from **16.02.2024** due to **Indian Overseas Bank,** Secured Creditor from the borrower(s) Borrower & Mortgagor **Mr. Shushilkumar,** residing at House No.271, 9th A Main Road, 4th Block, Nandini Layout, Bangalore-560096.

The Reserve Price will be **Rs.51,30,000/-** (Rs. Fifty One Lakh Thirty Thousand only) (Exclusive of 1% TDS) and the **Earnest Money Deposit** will be **Rs.5,13,000/-** (Rs. Five Lakh Thirteen Thousand Only)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

Schedule-A: All the piece and parcel in respect on the Western Portion of the Southern side on the Eastern side converted land bearing Sy.No.6, RDPR. Prop. No.150200203400120573, Prop. No.1145/877/6 (piaki), Measuring an extent of 0-13¾ Guntas out of the land to the extent of 0-27½ Guntas, situated at Gulladahalli at Kereguddadahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, converted vide conversion order bearing No. ALN(NY) SR.65/2011-2012 dated 11.08.2011 the order issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore and **Bounded on: East by:** Government Road then remaining portion of the same land, **West by:** Remaining Western Portion of Southern Side on the Western side belongs to M/s. Indradhanush Properties (P) Ltd., **North by:** Remaining Western portion of Northern side of land in same Sy.No.6, **South by:** Land bearing Sy.No.7.

Schedule-B: 240 Square Feet of undivided share of rights, title, interest in the schedule "A" property.

Schedule-C: Apartment bearing Flat No.310, 'A' Block, 2nd Floor, 'A' Block, "GLOBAL NANDHANAM" situated at Kereguddadahalli, Gullahalli, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, North Taluk, Banagalore-560090 having super built up area 1200 Sq.ft. consisting of Two Bedrooms, with vitrified Flooring, in the building known as "GLOBAL NANDHANAM" constructed on Schedule A Property with rights to pass through the area leading to the main road and free egress and ingress and entitled to all the common areas with covered car parking. This property is in the name of **Mr. Sushil Kumar, S/o. Mr. Huvappa.**

RESERVE PRICE: Rs.51,30,000/- (Exclusive of 1% TDS)
EMD: Rs.5,13,000/- BID INCREASE AMOUNT: Rs.50,000/-

Date and time of e-auction: 21.03.2024 (date) between 10.30 A.M. to 4.30 P.M. (time) with auto extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed at the platform of **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ ibapi.**

Known encumbrance if any: Nil

Inspection Date and Time: The property can be inspected on any working day **between 10.00 am and 05.00 pm from 17.02.2024 to 19.03.2024.**

Please contact the **Yelahanka Branch Manager on the contact number 080-22950335 and 22950336, Mob. No.9176467895**

Submission of online application for Bid with EMD starts from: 20.02.2024.

Last date for submitting online application for bid with EMD amount: 19.03.2024 before 05.00 pm.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the service providers link or bank's website i.e. **www.iob.in, http://www.iob.in/TenderDetails.aspx?Tendertype=E_auction**

Date: 16.02.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Indian Overseas Bank**

This may also be treated as a Notice under Rule 8(6)/Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about holding of e-auction on the above mentioned date.

REPCO HOME FINANCE LIMITED

Repco Home Finance

HOSUR BRANCH: No.23/1, Nischal Tower, 2nd Floor, Above Federal Bank, Bye Pass Road, Hosur - 635109.

E - AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of Immovable Properties Mortgaged to Repco Home Finance Ltd. Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002.

Whereas the **Borrower: Mr. Nandish Reddy.C,** S/o. Chenna Reddy, **Co-Borrower I: Mr. N. Chenna Reddy,** S/o. Nanja Reddy, **Co-Borrower II: Mr. C. Jayapal Reddy,** S/o. Chenna Reddy and **Co-Borrower III: Mrs. V. Santhamma,** D/o.Venkatasamy Reddy , have borrowed money from Repco Home Finance Limited, Hosur Branch against the mortgage of the immovable property more fully described in the schedule hereunder. Since, the Borrowers failed to repay the loan amount, the company has issued a **Demand Notice** under Section 13(2) of the Sarfaesi Act, 2002 on **14.06.2023** calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the notice vide **Loan Account No. 1361870002482** being **Rs. 32,92,682/-** with further interest from **14.06.2023** together with costs and expenses within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

Whereas the **Borrower, Co-Borrowers & Guarantor** having failed to pay the amount due to the Company as called for in the said demand notice, the Company has taken possession of the secured asset more fully described in the schedule hereunder by issuing Possession Notice under Section 13(4) of the Act on **15.12.2023.**

Whereas the Borrowers having failed to pay the dues in full, the secured creditor, Repco Home Finance Limited has decided to sell the under mentioned secured asset in **"As is where is condition"** and **"As is what is condition"** under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rules 8 & 9 of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for realization of the debts dues to the company. The dues of the Borrower vide **Loan Account No. 1361870002482** being **Rs. 32,68,918/-** as on **14.02.2024.**

Date / Time of E - Auction : 03.04.2024, Time : 11.00 a.m - 12.00 p.m.
With unlimited auto extension of 5 minutes
Last Date & Time for submitting E-Tenders : 02.04.2024, 04.00 P.M

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the property situated at Bangalore Urban District, Anekal Taluk and Town, Ward No.8, Court behind (Gokul Layout) Manjunatha Layout Municipal Asst. Khatha No.662/2260/59, Site No.59, measuring 13.20 + 13.50/2 x 9.15 meters of 2 floor R.C.C. House and 10.65 x 7.93 meters of vacant land is **Bounded as follows: East :** Private Property, **West :** Road, North : Site No.60, **South :** Site No.58. Totally Measuring an extent of 1311 Sq. Feet of land together with building and building to be constructed thereon

RESERVE PRICE : Rs.73,18,000/- ; EMD (10% of Reserve Price) : Rs.7,31,800/- ;
Minimum Bid Increment Amount : Rs.50,000/-

For E-Auction procedure, please contact M/s. C1 India, Mr.Prabhakar –7418281709.

For inspection of the property the intending bidders may contact the Branch Head, Repco Home Finance Limited, Hosur Branch, on all working days between 10 A.M to 5 P.M. Contact Nos. 04344220303 & 9445007435

Date: 16-02-2024 **Authorised Officer, Repco Home Finance Limited**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my Client **Sri. RAHAMATHULLA BAIG,** Aged about 76 years, Son of late Raza Baig, Residing at No.27, Papaiah Street, Lalbagh, Doddamavalli, Bengaluru - 560 004, Karnataka State, the owner of the Schedule Property has lost the following Original Documents 1) Mortgage Deed dated 06-07-1998, as Document No.1178/1998-99, Volume No. SF718, Pages at No.54-58, of Book-1, registered before the Sub-registrar Basavanagudi at Bengaluru, 2) Discharge Deed / Certificate document No.6008/2002-03, of Book-1, registered before the Sub-registrar Basavanagudi at Bengaluru, and 3) Discharge Deed / Certificate dated 02-07-2009, document No.CMP-1-00618-2009-10, stored in C.D. No.CMPD10, of Book-1, registered before the Sub-registrar Chamarajapete at Bengaluru, these original documents are lost while the owner was renovating the Schedule Property on 10-10-2023 and since could not find it inspite of his best efforts. In this regard my Client Lodged a Lost Article Complaint to Bengaluru City Police Unit on 16-02-2024 vide Lost report No.0935969/2024. If any person's found the above mentioned Original Deeds, they may contact at the address mentioned above within 07 days from the date of the Publication of this Notice.

"SCHEDULE PROPERTY"

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property municipal bearing **New No. 27,** (Old No.24), having P.I.D. No.61-19-27, situated at Papaiah Lane, Doddamavalli, Bengaluru City, presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, Vishveshwarapuram Ward No.143, measuring North to South on the Eastern side 58'.3" Feet and on the Western side 60' Feet and East to West on the Northern side 27 ½ feet and on the South 27 ½ feet, totally measuring **58'.3" + 60' ÷ 2 X 27'.5" = 1626.62 Square Feet,** consisting of 963' Square Feet R.C.C. roofed Residential house on the Ground Floor and 328' Square Feet Mangalore tile roofed Residential house on the First Floor, constructed in the year 1935, with all civic amenities, and bounded on East by: Property bearing No.23 in earlier belongs to Smt. Venkatamma, West by: Property of Rajaiah Setty, North by: Papaiah Lane, and South by: Conservancy Lane.

[K.R. RAMESH KUMAR]
Kopparam Law Associates
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS
No.21/2, "Mathrusri Nilaya", Ground Floor, Mavalli Main Road, Doddamavalli, Bengaluru - 560 004.
Mobile No: +91 9480110501.
Date: 17-02-2024

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

ಹೈದ್ರಾಬಾದ್‌ರಸ್ತೆ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ– 585201.
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: apmcyadagiri@gmail.com, ಕಛೇರಿ/ಟೆಲಿಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08473–250203,251382.

ಸಂ:ಕೃಉಮಾಸ:ಯಾ:ಅಭಿಕೆ:ಆರ್‌ಐಡಿಎಫ್–29:845:2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.02.2024.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ: ಎರಡನೇ ಕರೆ (Short Term Tendar)

ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ವತಿಯಿಂದಆರ್.ಐ.ಡಿ.ಎಫ್.–29 ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡ Construction Of Coverd Auction Platform At A&B block in MMY and Gurmitkal SMY of APMC Yadgir (RM29016) ಈ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 1999–2000 ಹಾಗೂ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಸರಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆಗಳಂತೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (K.W-4) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರ ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು:– Construction Of Covered Auction Platform At A&B block in MMY and Gurmitkal SMY of APMC Yadgir (RM29016) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.3,46,15,848.00 (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಸೇರಿ) ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ (ಇಎಂಡಿ) ರೂ. 5,19,250.00 **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ** : ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ (K.W-4) ರನ್ವಯ. **ಖಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರ್ಮ್ ಬೆಲೆ (ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ):** ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನನ್ವಯ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ– 1ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ–175 ದಿನಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

1) ಬಿಡ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಕರಾರು ಸಮಜಾಯಿಷಿ ನೀಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28–02–2024 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.03.2024ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ವರೆಗೆ. 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–03–2024. ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ವರೆಗೆ. 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–03–2024. ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ವರೆಗೆ. (ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಇದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತವೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ, ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮೋ. ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 9481002193 / 9482399558 ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, **ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.**

ಸಹಿ/–ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, **ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.**

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/340/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ&ಎ/2023–24

Public Notice For E-Auction For Sale Of Immovable Properties

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana) and **Branch Office at""ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025"** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002(hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IIFL-HFL had taken the possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS and WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" for realization ofIIFL-HFL's dues, The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.iiflonehome.com

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower (s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Symbolic Possession	Reserve Price
1.Mr. Manjunath B N 2. Gayathri Traders 3. Mrs. Usha S (Prospect No 736553)	26-Feb-2019 Rs.61,09,834/- (Rupees Sixty One Lakh Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Four Only)	All that part and parcel of the property Flat/ Apartment No.AA1-A, 402, admeasuring 1065 sq. ft., Fourth Floor, Block-A, in building known as "KPR Sunrise Square", SY No. 41/5, BBMP Khata No. 1022/41/5, Doddakannelli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore, Karnataka 560037.alongwith one car Parking space on the basement.	08-Dec-2023	Rs. 45,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Only)
	Bid Increase Amount Rs.40,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand Only)		Total Outstanding As On Date 05-Feb-2024 Rs. 89,80,055/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Lakh Eighty Thousand Fifty Five Only)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 4,50,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)

Date of Inspection of property	EMD Last Date	Date/ Time of E-Auction
18-Mar-2024 1100 hrs -1400 hrs	20-Mar-2024 till 5 pm.	22-Mar-2024 1100 hrs.-1300 hrs.

Mode Of Payment :- EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have to visit https://www.iiflonehome.com and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only.

Note: Payment link for each property/ Secured Asset is different. Ensure you are using link of the property/ Secured Asset you intend to buy vide public auction. **For balance payment, upon successful bid, has to pay through RTGS/NEFT. The accounts details are as follows: a) Name of the Account:- IIFL Home Finance Ltd., b) Name of the Bank:- Standard Chartered Bank, c) Account No:-9902879xxxxx followed by Prospect Number, d) IFSC Code:- SCBL0036001, e) Bank Address: Standard Chartered Bank, 90 M.G. Road, Fort, Mumbai-400001.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. For participating in e-auction, Intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider **https://www.iiflonehome.com,** well in advance and has to create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit / send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit **25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours** of the acceptance of bid price by the AO **and** the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. Bidders are advised to go through the website https://www.iiflonehome.com and https://www.iifl.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
6. **For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E mail ID:- auction.hl@iifl.com, Support Helpline Numbers:@1800 2672 499**
7. **For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IIFL HFL toll free no. 1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs between Monday to Friday or write to email:- auction.hl@iifl.com**
8. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IIFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
9. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law.
10. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
11. AO reserves the rights to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute in tender/Auction, the decision of AO of IIFL-HFL will be final.

STATUTARY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place:- Bengaluru , Date: 19-Feb-2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, IIFL Home Finance Limited.**

The Andhra Pradesh police arrested 4 people for allegedly printing and circulating fake currency in Ramachandrapuram on Sunday. The police seized fake currency worth `75,000, laptops, printers and pendrive, and arrested the accused. They are on the hunt for two more accused

Kerala varsity senate meeting: Arif terms Min Bindu 'criminal'

Will not forego my standards by giving similar response: Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ T'Puram

THE war of words between Kerala Governor **Arif Mohammed Khan** and Higher Education Minister **R Bindu** over the controversial Senate meeting in Kerala University intensified on Sunday. While the governor referred to the minister as a 'criminal' for presiding over the Senate meeting in her capacity as pro-chancellor, Bindu retorted that Khan's comments did not warrant a reply.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function in Thiruvananthapuram, Khan said the higher education minister "illegally" attending the Senate meeting constituted a violation of law and it will be taken cognizance of. "I am not going to respond to criminals," the governor said when asked further about the minister attending the meeting.

Bindu swiftly retorted saying she did not intend to give a reply to people who do not act in a manner befitting their official position. "I am not willing to forego my standards by giving a similar response," Bindu told reporters.

The governor had criticised Bindu on Saturday as well alleging that she was ignorant of the law and had no respect towards the law of the land. Khan's fresh attack comes amid reports that he was planning to seek legal opinion before taking action against Bindu for "illegally" attending the Senate meeting.

Earlier in the day, Senate members nominated by the governor called on him at the Raj Bhavan and urged him to take action against the minister. They also demanded that Dr M K C Nair, whom they had nominated as the Senate representative be chosen to the VC selection panel.

According to the Kerala University rules, the pro-chancellor (higher education minister) can attend Senate meetings in the absence of the chancellor (governor).

START HEALTHY

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao (centre) at a mass suryanamaskar event organised by Aysuh Department, at Vidhana Soudha on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

States need to work together to stop man-animal conflicts: Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Pulpally

Cogress MP Rahul Gandhi, on Sunday, meets the family of Ajeesh Joseph a forest watchman who was killed in an elephant attack in Wayanad | PTI

WAYANAD MP Rahul Gandhi on Sunday visited the houses of Ajeesh Joseph, Paul VP and Prajeesh, three victims of wild elephants and tiger attacks in Wayanad. He later held a review meeting with district officials including the District Collector, Wayanad district police chief and forest department officials at Kalpetta. Rahul Gandhi emphasized the issue of lack of facilities at the Wayanad Government Medical College, which was the reason behind delay in Paul's treatment.

Rahul Gandhi left for Wayanad on Saturday evening taking a break from his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Varanasi. First, he visited Ajeesh Joseph's family in Padamala, who was killed in a wild elephant attack on February 10. Later, he left for Pakkam, to visit the family of Paul VP, who died on Friday in another wild elephant attack near Kuruva Islands Eco Tourism Centre. He also visited the family of Prajeesh, who was killed in a tiger attack last December, in Moodakolly.

He blamed the state for delaying the proposed developmental project at the Wayanad Government Medical College Hospital, and delay in distributing compensation to the families of the victims. "We have told the district administration that they need to pay the compensation quickly and effectively. The compensation should come immediately, victims' families should not have to wait. We also suggested looking into setting up an early warning system.

One rapid response team (RRT) in Wayanad is not enough. We have asked the officials to increase the number of teams and provide these teams with enough equipment and facilities as required.

There is a need to maintain inter-state cooperation to tackle the human-animal conflicts. We assure that we will also provide support to improve the coordination, but it's important that the state governments of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu cooperate with each other." Speaking about the under-equipped hospital, in Wayanad, Rahul said, "I don't understand why it's taking such a long time to develop a medical college."

Karnataka government to pay compensation to Ajeesh Joseph's family

Bengaluru: Karnataka government has decided to pay compensation to family members of Ajeesh Joseph Panachiyil, who was killed by an elephant at Mananthavady recently. This elephant is from the forests of Karnataka. A press release from the state government said that Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment had appealed to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who agreed to pay a compensation to the family members of Ajeesh in par with any citizen of Karnataka in the case of death during man-animal conflict. It can be noted that this elephant had been captured in Belur, Hassan, in November last year and was translocated to Bandipur Forest. After more than two months, it was discovered that the elephant had strayed into Wayanad, Kerala.

Rural libraries to get facelift, says Priyank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE government has proposed to revamp libraries in rural areas to encourage reading habits among youngsters and create awareness of the benefits of reading at the grassroots level.

Out of the 5,895 gram panchayat libraries, 4,895 have been sanctioned for renovation. The renovation includes construction of buildings, rooms, and shelves. New collection of books and periodicals will also be added to the libraries, said Priyank M Kharge, Minister for RDPR and IT-BT, on Saturday.

He added that the libraries will be upgraded using the 14th and 15th Finance Commission grants and Gram Panchayat resources. Among the 5,494 libraries 678 are Beacon Libraries equipped with digital systems.

The role of library supervisors will also be improved and more incentives will be offered. The recent state budget also mentioned that gram panchayat libraries will be upgraded to 'Awareness Centers' with tools for digital learning, along with professional guidance and robust education system. Implementing user-friendly technology and knowledge sessions by skilled individuals have also been planned.

Supervisors to get a hike

Acknowledging the role of library supervisor in building 'Awareness Centres', the RDPR department also issued a circular on increasing the library supervisor's salary. The monthly minimum wage has been fixed at 16, 382.52, with an additional D.A of Rs 1,542. which totals to Rs 17,924.52 per month. The amount will be paid in addition to the variable allowance, with effect from September 04, 2023. The order states that the variable dearness allowance (VDA) has to be paid from time to time as fixed by the Labour Department. Working hours have been extended from 6 hours to 8 hours.

Area has space to house 20 leopards, says BBP official

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"UNLIKE tigers and lions, leopards are very agile and tricky to deal with. They find any possible route to escape. So all angles have been explored while creating the enclosure. The area has space to house 20 leopards, but right now there are 12, which are being made to get accustomed to each other, so there is no conflict between them. The leopards have divided themselves into two groups, with six in each. They need time to get along with each other," said the official.

All the leopards that will be kept on display are aged under one, and have been hand-reared at the zoo. They are the rescued ones brought by forest department staffers or individuals from fields, when they were little cubs. According to records, there are 70 leopards in BBP, 19 tigers and 19 lions in the zoo.

Rural areas will get more buses, says minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

TRANSPORT and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that more buses will be allocated for rural areas to meet the demand in the next three months.

He was speaking at the inauguration of new buses of North-West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), distribution of silver medals to the drivers who had not committed any accident in their service and inauguration of Harugeri new bus station at the Central Bus stand here on Sunday.

Reddy said that there was no shortage of bus stands in any village of the district. The government will further strengthen the transport department and focus on solving the transport problems in rural areas. A compensation of Rs 50 lakh was being distributed to the kin of bus drivers and conductors who died in accidents. A proposal has already been submitted to the government to increase this compensation amount to Rs 1 crore, he said.

The Shakti Yojana providing free travel for all women in government buses and free travel to students of the state were successful. New buses will be provided for the rural areas in the district along with the city as per demand, he said.

Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalakar said about 50 buses had been allocated to Belagavi district. Steps had been taken to purchase another 1,000 more buses and fill vacancies for 2,000 posts. As many as 145 persons were given jobs on compassionate grounds, she said.

NWKRTC Chairman Bharamagauda (Raju) Kage said that more than 5 lakh passengers were travelling on an average every day. Out of which 60 % are women. There is no proper bus facility for students in rural areas. The government will work to reduce the shortage of buses in the coming days. In the same way, clean drinking water system will also be provided at the bus stands, he said.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and NWRTC Chairman Raju Kage flag off new buses in Belagavi on Sunday | EXPRESS

Naxal on the run for over 20 yrs held

ENS @ Chikkamagaluru

NAXALITE **Suresh Angadi alias Pradeep**, who was evading the police for more than 20 years, was arrested by the Kannur police in Kerala. Suresh was a wanted Naxalite in over 15 cases registered in Sringeri and Kudremukh police station limits.

The Karnataka police had announced a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh on his head. It is said that he was found injured in an elephant attack at a Naxal camp in the dense forests of Kerala. He is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Wayanad. Anti-Naxal Force SP Jitendra Kumar Dayam said that after Suresh recovers, he will be brought to Karnataka for interrogation. Suresh hails from a village in Gonibeedu Hobli of Mudigere taluk.

EXPRESS READ

Pawan Kalyan asked to appear in Guntur court

GUNTUR: A criminal case has been filed against the Jana Sena Party (JSP) chief Pawan Kalyan in Guntur for his alleged derogatory comments against the volunteers last year. Volunteers claim that Pawan Kalyan made derogatory comments against them during his Varahi public rally at Eluru on July 9, 2023 tarnishing the government's reputation.

Tusker raids villages in TN, kills 2 women

Krishnagiri: A tusker from Jawalagiri forest range entered into Anniyalam and Dasarapalli villages near Denkanikottai on Sunday and killed two women, also two men were injured by the same tusker. A Vasantha (33) of Anniyalam and V Aswathamma (42) in were the victims of the tusker's attack. People staged protest, asking the government to translocate the elephant.

K'aka fares well on Jan Dhan Yojana, says study

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

A team comprising four professors from Bangalore University (BU) conducted an extensive review over the past six months on the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana in Karnataka, Rajasthan, and West Bengal and found Karnataka fairs comparatively well on the usage of government services and digital literacy. The report emphasised the need for appropriate technological or regulatory interventions.

Speaking to TNIE, Prof SR Keshav of the varsity said that the review was done between marginalised communities such as ST, SC, OBC, women, disabled, and the third gender. In each of the states, three districts that have the maximum presence of underprivileged communities were selected. In Karnataka, Kolar, Ballari, and Dakshina Kannada were identified to check if the intended financial inclusion has happened.

"We have submitted the report to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and found that Karnataka fairs better on the Jan Dhan implementation than the other two states. Relatively, the state also performed better on average daily wages earned by labourers – about Rs 350- 400, compared to Rajasthan which we found to be Rs 250- 300," he said.

The extensive report also talks about the need for suitable policy changes regarding inaccessibility to other banking services such as insurance or overdraft facilities, despite these communities opening bank accounts.

Prof Keshav also highlighted that the government should spearhead the promotion of financial literacy, as many still struggle in rural areas.

"Just as UPI transactions are announced on stalls and shops same intervention can be adopted in banks and ATMs when an amount is withdrawn to curb malpractices," he said, adding that many accuse the banking correspondents of fraud.

Revealing some details of the survey He said that almost 99% of the population has a Jan Dhan account. The third gender and tribals who live in hamlets were some of the categories that did not have the accounts, he said.

Recalling a case study, Prof Keshav added that a family in Rajasthan did not have an account and could be counted as "the poorest of the poor" who had seven daughters and the father was unemployed. "But this is only 1% of the population," he asserted.

KEY POINTS

According to the review, approximately 52 crore Jan Dhan account holders have benefited from the scheme, with around 98% of the population accessing banking facilities. The report also highlights government initiatives and subsidies directly reaching account holders through DBT, enabling financial inclusion.

The elderly population has greatly benefited as they received their subsidies and pensions directly to their accounts. One-third of the population has the perception that was below poverty levels have come out of poverty (not disclosing exact numbers as the report is still under review.)

However, the trend noticed is that the marginalised section is making deposits. They use the account for Direct Bank Transfers and withdrawals as they don't have income to deposit.

"We also identified the demerits of RuPay cards. Some elders complained that they are not able to use those cards and are being accessed by their children," Prof Keshav explained.

Just as UPI transactions are announced on stalls and shops, same intervention can be adopted in banks and ATMs when an amount is withdrawn to curb malpractices

— Prof SR Keshav, BU

FIRST AVIAN SURVEY DISCOVERS 296 BIRD SPECIES IN UTTARA KANNADA DIST

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S
@ Dandeli (Uttara Kannada)

A preliminary survey of birds in Uttara Kannada has revealed that there are 296 species of birds in the district. This was the first-ever bird survey conducted in the district by the Forest Department. The Kanara Forest Circle, which covers the entire Uttara Kannada district, is one of the most forested tracts along the coastal region with abundant forests and diverse bio-diversity which includes avian fauna.

"The event was organised as part of the Hornbill Festival. This is the first of its kind effort in the district. We had bird experts from across the country participating in the two-day survey," Vasanth Reddy, Conservator of Forests, Canara Circle told Express.

Amarakshara, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Kali Tiger Reserve, said, "Over a 100 birders from various parts of the country arrived here, of whom, 60 birders were selected for the survey. The landscape of Uttara Kannada was divided into various categories and separate teams were tasked with survey work for two days through which we recorded 296 species of birds," he said. The Wildlife Research and Training Centre, Dandeli, prepared the survey plan for the region in line with the Kerala Bird Atlas Protocol. The district was divided into different landscapes - seas and islands, beaches, mangrove estuaries, lateritic plateaus, ghat areas, upghats, dry areas and urban regions for the survey. "The district is home to around 410 bird species on e-bird platform and the district, as per the state of India's birds 2023, has 62 high priority species of birds, second in Karnataka after Mysuru. In the high conservation priority, Malabar Grey Hornbill and White-Bellied Blue Flycatcher are found in good numbers," said Reddy.

"The district's Aghanashini Conservation Reserve was recently declared a Ramsar Site along with several protected areas such as the Kali Tiger Reserve, Sharavathi Lion, Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary, Hornbill Conservation Reserve, Shalmala Conservation Reserve, Bedthi Conservation Reserve, Attiveri Bird Sanctuary and Mundigekere Conservation Reserves. Recognising the importance of the avian ambassadors in the area, Kanara circle is taking up systematic recording of avian bio-diversity of the region", informed Reddy.

The forest trail is identified and a team of three walk each trail for a day to document the birds in the area.

Experts carry out the bird survey in Uttara Kannada district

EDITORIAL

Fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts — Bertrand Russell

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

LESSONS TO LEARN FROM THE PAYTM PAYMENTS BANK MESS

WHEN the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced partial suspension of Paytm Payments Bank operations, it evoked criticism that the regulator was high-handed in dealing with a new-age fintech firm. Despite clear indications of non-compliance, the payments bank founded by a first-generation entrepreneur still enjoys sympathy. However, the truth is that the regulator had given the firm ample opportunities to mend its ways. The Paytm Payments Bank saga is a sordid tale of continued disregard for compliances and regulatory norms. Due to the very nature of its business, non-compliance of regulatory standards is a cardinal sin for a banking company.

While the banking regulator has not spelt out the exact reasons for putting restrictions on the payments bank's operations, it has indicated "persistent non-compliances and continued material supervisory concerns in the bank, warranting further supervisory action". It is being speculated that the China exposure of the bank's parent company—One97 Communication—might have led to such stringent action. But the bank has been under regulatory scrutiny for quite some time. Time and again, RBI has taken some action or other against Paytm for its failure to keep up with regulatory rigours expected from a bank.

Last year, the regulator levied a penalty for failing to identify beneficial owners of entities it onboarded for providing regulatory services. It also pointed out its failure in monitoring payout transactions and carrying out risk profiling of entities availing payout services. The bank even breached the regulatory ceiling of end-of-the-day balance in certain customer advance accounts availing payout services. The banking regulator has in the past also pointed out delays in reporting cyber security incidents by the bank, and loopholes in its customer identification infrastructure. In 2022, RBI had raised concern over the bank's IT system and had temporarily stopped onboarding new customers.

There are serious questions on the systemic risk that the vast fintech ecosystem poses to the country's financial system. If compliances are not strictly adhered to, it leaves millions of people exposed to cyber financial frauds. The RBI action against Paytm should send a strong message to other fintech companies to get their house in order.

CURB HUMAN ACTIVITIES TO PROTECT ANIMALS

KERALA is caught in a heated man-versus-wild debate after two back-to-back deaths due to elephant attacks in Wayanad district. While a 47-year-old farmer was trampled to death by a wild elephant that strayed from Karnataka forests on February 10, a 50-year-old man died on February 16 after being attacked by a tusker. These incidents have contributed to the lingering public anger against the perceived apathy of the authorities towards the plight of those living on forest fringes. In 2024 alone, six people have died in elephant attacks across Kerala, and five have died in Wayanad in the past four months in attacks by wild animals. With such incidents becoming frequent, even mere sightings of wild animals these days send people into panic and prompt them to take to the streets demanding that the government take measures to protect them and their crops.

The increased level of panic is costing the wildlife too. Recently, an elephant that entered Kerala from Karnataka died after being tranquilised. A tiger that was caught earlier this week in Kannur died while being taken to a zoo. About two months ago, a leopard caught in Kannur died after being drugged. While wildlife experts have already flagged concerns over these mysterious deaths, the Kerala government on Wednesday passed a resolution asking the Centre to amend the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. It wants Section 11 (1) (A) altered to empower chief conservators of forests to grant permission to kill wild animals. Worryingly, it also seeks measures to control the reproduction of wild animals.

While the resolution seems like a political measure to assuage the anger of the agitating farmers, the fact is the government has failed to address the real issues that drive wild animals to human habitations. Increased human activities in protected forests—mostly illegal—and the growth of invasive species of plants are destroying wildlife habitats. The government must deal with these before moving to control the population and reproduction of animals. Besides, the claims of overpopulation of wildlife seem a bit stretched. The wild elephant population in Kerala has declined from 5,706 in 2017 to 2,386 in 2023. There is no doubt that human lives should be protected and the farmers' livelihood should be ensured, but that is no justification for the demand that the wildlife population be controlled through culling. Giving in to the argument that humans have the full right to protect themselves and their assets from wild animals using any means will sound the death knell for our wildlife.

QUICK TAKE

BE A LIONHEART

MARK Twain must have been muddled when he said man is the only religious animal. Or so the Vishwa Hindu Parishad would have us believe. The VHP has moved a circuit bench of the Calcutta High Court against naming a lion Akbar and a lioness Sita. Despite records at Tripura's Sepahijala zoo, from where the couple was recently brought to Siliguri, showing that the animals have been named so for long, the petitioners smell fresh mischief. They demand that the two be separated. Maybe, we need an innovative solution to this unique plaint: let the lionheart plaintiffs be given the job of separating the lioness from her lion.

The Supreme Court's verdict on electoral bonds must be taken forward by the government as the first step towards larger electoral reforms

ELECTORAL BOND VERDICT NEEDS POLITICAL RESOLVE

KALEESWARAM RAJ
Lawyer, Supreme Court of India

SOURAV ROY

THE judgment of the Supreme Court in *Association for Democratic Reforms vs Union of India* that banned the Electoral Bond System (EBS) is also a treatise on the subject. Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud has nicely explained the complex legal issues in his characteristic style so that anyone concerned with India's democratic polity can read it and get into various dimensions of the topic. It is an instance of constitutional adjudication rooted in contemporary economic and political realities. It is also a case of legitimate judicial activism of our times. The judgment has reinvented the idea of political equality and thereby reminded us about the principle of socialism, a forgotten word in the Constitution's Preamble, in the arena of electoral politics.

To facilitate unlimited and opaque corporate funding to political parties, Parliament altered the relevant enactments. Section 182 of the Companies Act was amended and the ceiling limit on corporate funding and the requirement to show the particulars of contribution were done away with. The amendment to the Income Tax Act said that the political parties need not even maintain a record of contributions. Modifications were made in other enactments like the Reserve Bank of India Act and the Representation of the People Act. Thus, a new regime of dubious economy came into being, which controlled not only the elections but the politics of the country.

The term 'electoral bond' is a misnomer as the funding was not limited to elections. It was a device for unlimited and secret enrichment of political parties. The Centre defended it. It said that the citizens don't have any fundamental right to know how the political parties are funded. It said that the EBS was intended to curb black money and to make the transactions "transparent". The "transparency" was limited to the government, and the parties to the bond. The public who voted the politicians to power was fenced out. According to the Centre, the EBS being a policy matter was beyond the purview of judicial review. The arguments on behalf of the Centre were rejected by the court almost entirely. Among other things, the court said that often the "contributions made as quid pro quo transactions are not an expression of political support". The analogy of the EBS with the secret balance system drawn by the Centre also was rejected by the bench. The court held: "Unlimited contribution by companies to political parties is antithetical to free and fair elections because it allows certain persons/ companies to wield their clout and resources to influence policy making".

No one has a case that before the introduction of the EBS the politics in India was clean and not contaminated by corporate funding or black money. The problem with the EBS, however, is that it legitimised and perpetuated the impurities in an enormous and limitless way. It enriched a few political parties unequally. These parties monopolised the funding in such a way that they could influence the uninformed voters by sheer propaganda and false narratives. "One person-one vote" became a mirage and political equality, a feature of bygone times. The legal defence of the EBS by the government was turned down by the court by applying the doctrine of proportionality and the principle of manifest arbitrariness. That the EBS created a serious threat to the country's functional democracy was an empirical reality. The impact of the Finance Act, 2017 on the cardinal laws of the country was shocking that even large-scale money laundering in the guise of EBS was legalised and hushed up. The nexus between the EBS and the horse-trading of elected candidates also might require a probe.

The verdict was not merely on the citizen's right to know the political parties and their candidates. It was also a total lack of constitutional legitimacy in the very system of unlimited corporate funding of political parties. Henry Ward Beecher famously said "it usually takes a hundred years to make a law, and then, after it's done its work, it usually takes a hundred years to be rid of it". The impact of the EBS on our political economy might stay on for many years to come.

Efforts to turn the apex court verdicts upside down are not uncommon in the country's history. Last year, the Supreme Court pronounced the verdict in *Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India*, which directed that the committee that selects the Election Commissioners should include the Chief Justice of India (CJI) also. The court wanted to put an end to the domination of the ruling dispensation in choosing the election commissioners, which was inherently unfair. Soon after the verdict, the Centre came up with a new legislation that contemplated a selection committee consisting of the prime minister, a Union cabinet minister, and the leader of the opposition. The CJI was excluded and the dominance of the government of the day in the process was effectively retained. One can only have a sense of cautious optimism about the present verdict as well.

True that the EBS *per se* does not abolish the black money culture in India. Even when there was EBS, other dubious transactions did prevail. Therefore, the criticism that the judgment would revive the flow of black money is clearly unfounded. To curb black money, we need radical measures and political will. No court verdict can ever substitute a political process.

Electoral reforms also are part of larger political reforms and therefore the Supreme Court verdict needs to be taken forward politically. It is essential to eradicate the flow of big money through public funding of elections in a plausible way which, however, should not burden the taxpayer disproportionally. In the age of advanced digital facilities for communication, spending too much on elections is a sinful luxury. The concerns on the prevailing system of electronic voting machines also should be immediately addressed and resolved. There is a need to further regulate the inflow of foreign funds by strict implementation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act by clearing the loopholes. It is also important to understand that the quid pro quo phenomenon is not limited to EBS. The nation requires eternal vigilance against the unholy nexus between the political power centres and the capital. Elections are essential in a democracy. But we also need to democratise the elections. That can happen only with the political education of the voters.

(Views are personal)

THE BOY SOLD BY HIS PARENTS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

OLD scripture contains some raw stuff but it's worth knowing. This nasty but moving story that many people don't get to hear for reasons you'll soon notice, is from the Aitareya Brahmana section of the *Rig Veda*. It goes back to early antiquity, to the fabled times of no less than "good King Harishchandra" of Ayodhya, to when the gods are said to have walked openly amongst mortals. The story goes that King Harishchandra had no son to inherit the kingdom. He went for counseling to Devrishi Narada, the hugely popular wandering sage. As advised by Narada, Harishchandra prayed to the ancient god Varuna but came out having made a dreadful bargain—a life for a life. Harishchandra would get his son but at some point, he had to offer a human life in exchange to Varuna. Perhaps the god was testing him, in which case Harishchandra had spectacularly failed.

Soon enough, Prince Rohitasva (Sanskrit for 'Red Horse') was born to gladden Raja Harishchandra's heart and the old bargain was conveniently forgotten. But when Rohitasva grew up Varuna testily reminded the king of his promise, just to see him run around; for under his goody-goody airs Harishchandra was guilty of vanity, the "I'm such a decent person" kind that the gods find particularly irritating. When the king nervously explained the matter to his rather spoilt son, Rohitasva rushed off around the kingdom to find a man to sacrifice to Varuna. Of course, nobody agreed to be offered up since human sacrifice was not the custom.

Rohitasva wandered around for nearly six years looking for a sacrificial victim and Harishchandra suffered agonies while he was away for Varuna was not amused by these delaying tactics and inflicted the most hideous stomach-ache on Harishchandra as a fine for defaulting.

At last, Rohitasva stumbled across Ajigarta, an an ex-priest whose belly ached from another punishment, hunger. Ajigarta, for all his grand bloodline from the important old sage Angiras, had been kicked out of his settlement for malpractice. Nobody would give him work after that and he had turned into a Vedic hillbilly, eking out a precarious existence in the woods with his wife and three sons, Shunapuchha, Shunashepa and Shunalangula. Ajigarta offered Rohitasva one of his sons for a hundred cows. However, he said he would not part with his eldest son whom he loved the best. Ajigarta's wife set up a squall at once that she would not part with her youngest son, her baby.

"My parents don't love me at all," thought Shunashepa, the middle son, deeply shocked. "What's the point of hanging on to life if nobody loves me, not even my mother?" He stepped forward, his face burning with the shame of it. "You may have me as your sacrifice, Prince," he said politely.

Rohitasva took Shunashepa at once to the palace and Harishchandra decided to combine his sacrifice with the Rajasuya ceremony, which was his own anointment as 'King of kings'. Four of the greatest sages of the age were to conduct the sacrifice –Vishwamitra as the *hotr* (the leader or conductor of the sacrifice), Jamadagni as the *adhvaryu* (the doer or manager of the fire and the offerings, especially the soma juice so pleasing to gods and men), Ayasya as the *udgatr* (the chanter of hymns from the Sama Veda) and Vasishta as the *brahmana* (the chanter of hymns from the Atharva Veda). But all four holy men refused to bind Shunashepa to the yupa or sacrificial stake and Rohitasva had to bribe Ajigarta, who had trailed along to see the fun, with another hundred cows to do it. Meanwhile, young Shunashepa, crushed by grief, tried to process two devastating things together; his parents' rejection and the fact that he would soon be killed.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

As the hour of sacrifice came, Shunashepa looked heavenwards. Slokas poured from his throat, verses of unearthly beauty praising Varuna whose sacrifice he was. It was as though he gathered all the love that was denied to him and offered it to the god as a parting gesture

At the appointed hour when the altars had been built in strict accordance with sacred geometry, Shunashepa was led to the sacrificial stake and bound firmly to it by his own father. We can only imagine the horrible tension of the moment. The grim, set faces of the priests, the cords tied with deadly efficiency around the boy's thin body, the bite of rope on skin. The terrible silence was punctured only by the hiss and crackle of flames in the firepit where offerings would be poured, the lowing of a cow in the distance, the clink of an *udhrani* (spoon) on a *panchapatra* (beaker)—small sounds magnified to frightening loudness in that quiet.

The preliminary chants began, the magic meters twisting through the air to unravel the minds of the hearers and restring them into one luminous sutra to carry the heat of the sacred fire to the gods and hopefully please them.

Then, as the king reached for the sharp blade with which to slit his throat, the force of feeling that consumes the unloved shook Shunashepa. Coached in secret as his one chance by the leader of the sacrifice, Vishwamitra, whose name meant 'Friend of All the World', Shunashepa looked heavenwards. Slokas poured from his throat, verses of unearthly beauty praising Varuna whose sacrifice he was. It was as though he gathered all the love that was denied him and offered it to the god as a parting gesture, a graceful act of generosity from someone who was helpless and possessed of nothing but his soul force as a human being.

The assembled *rishis*, *rajas* and *praja* sat stone-still. Nobody could move or speak in the spell of that sound. Slowly, so slowly that it went unnoticed at first, the cords binding Shunashepa loosened and slid to the ground. Shunashepa had pulled the god's head down by the ear with his grace under pressure; he had uncurled Varuna's fist into the open palm of anjali. He was adopted by Viswamitra after that and became a scholar of note. He cut his emotional losses and had no more truck with his parents whose 'love' had been exposed as hollow and not worth having. *(Views are personal)*

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Fragile bonds

Ref: *Cultural travesty of abandoning the old* (Feb 18). The column is a perfect pen portrait of the situation in which our senior citizens find themselves today. With the collapse of the once cherished joint family system, familial bonds have taken a hit. Being shown the door by their own children, and with no income, many elders end up in old age homes in a state of depression.

Nataraja Perumal, Tenkasi

Help elderly

The column shines light on the issues facing the elderly. While children must do their part in taking care of their parents, the government should also take measures to make life easier for the elderly. These measures can include cutting tax on interest earned from fixed deposits and helping conduct regular health checkups.

Sumangala, email

Comprehensive reform

Ref: *Politics of farm laws and curse of imperfect markets* (Feb 18). Agriculture remains a financially strained sector in India. Farmers facing income deprivation are demanding a guaranteed minimum support price for their produce. The farmer protests underscore the need for a comprehensive policy reform that addresses the fundamental issues plaguing Indian agriculture.

Amrita K, Bengaluru

Central UCC

Ref: *Live-in relationship to be out of Central UCC draft document* (Feb 18). Excluding live-in relationships from the purview of the Uniform Civil Code is a good step as it respects individual autonomy and privacy. Legal systems must acknowledge the diverse lifestyles of today without imposing traditional marital norms or regulations.

Maria Jacob, email

Kharge's claim

Ref: *Another BJP win will make Modi a dictator, says Kharge* (Feb 18). Kharge claims that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will become a dictator if the party wins again. It shows the Congress is lacking confidence and is desperately trying to create resentment towards the BJP. On the other hand, a confident BJP is aiming for 370 seats.

P V Prakash, Mumbai

Congress desperate

Kharge's statement shows that the Congress has no tricks up its sleeve to halt the BJP juggernaut. There is fear among the opposition parties that if the BJP wins the election by a large margin, it would lead to further marginalisation of the opposition and the minority voices.

C V Aravind, Chennai

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Prakash Javadekar @PrakashJavadekar
Kutch, a city once devastated by cyclone and earthquake, has now emerged as a tourism heaven for the world.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
Today India is facing economic crisis. Due to rising inflation, it is becoming difficult to purchase even essential commodities. The youth are troubled by unemployment.

Hemant Soren @HemantSorenJMM
Today the whole country is watching the conspiracy of the Central govt and BJP. Everyone is upset to see how democracy is being sabotaged in Jharkhand and Delhi.

It's a battle of Mahabharat, says Amit Shah

Modi-led BJP working for development while 'INDI Alliance' is corrupt, he says

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah, who is also the BJP's principal strategist, on Sunday compared the upcoming Lok Sabha elections with the battle of Mahabharata, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leading the BJP camp to seek the country's development. The "INDI alliance", he said, represented dynastic parties under the Congress, which is making every effort to ruin the country.

Shah lashed out at the Opposition at BJP's national convention. "Just as in the Mahabharata war, there were two camps — the Kauravas and Pandavas — today there are two camps ahead of the polls."

Predicting a massive mandate for the BJP-led NDA for the third consecutive term, Shah said the nation has decided to "bless PM Modi again."

"An alliance of dynastic parties can never benefit the nation. India's development will be achieved only through Modi ji's thinking and diligence. India is on the path of becoming 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047," he asserted, adding that Congress has always created instability in the country.

"For the first time, 140 crore people of Bharat have dreamt of building a great country and this is going to turn into a reality by Modi ji. Freedom from corruption, poverty, dynastic politics and appeasement — all of it has been achieved through good governance and the developmental model of the Modi government in the last 10 years," he said. He assured the nation that it will be totally free of terrorism, separatism and Naxalism in the Modi government's third term.

He also slammed the INDIA bloc for being a supporter of corruption. "It is a congregation of seven dynastic parties," Shah said.

Speaking on the party's resolution titled 'BJP: Desh ki aasha, vipaksha ki hatasha' (BJP: Country's hope, opposition's despair), Shah said that the opposition is full of "2G, 3G and 4G" parties, a reference to the second, third and fourth generation of families running these political parties.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP chief JP Nadda and Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath at the party's national convention on Sunday | EXPRESS

An alliance of dynastic parties can never benefit the nation. India's development will be attained only via Modi ji's vision
Amit Shah

Third term

Shah said the country will be free from terrorism, separatism and Naxalism in the third term. He slammed the INDIA bloc for supporting corruption.

BJP amends its statute, Nadda tenure extended

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AT the two-day party convention, the BJP amended its constitution allowing its Central Parliamentary Board to take a decision related to its president and the extension of his term.

A proposal was brought by party's general secretary Sunil Bansal. Following the amendment, JP Nadda's tenure as party president was extended till June 2024.

Party sources said the two-day convention that ended on Sunday also saw the passage of three resolutions. On the sidelines of the convention, a meeting of CMs and deputy CMs of the BJP was held. They discussed the details of the party's strategy to win 370 seats in the LS polls.

Nadda said the BJP-led NDA was comfortably placed to continue in power crossing the mark of 400 under the leadership of Modi. He also said the PM accords top priority to the organisation.

'Beginning of Ram Rajya for 1,000 yrs'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AT the conclusion of the BJP's two-day national convention on Sunday, the party passed a resolution on the Ram temple in Ayodhya. It said the construction of the temple marked the beginning of "Ram Rajya" in India for the next 1,000 years.

The BJP resolution described the temple where the idol of Lord Ram was consecrated on January 22, a temple of "national consciousness" making the country sure to become 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

"The construction of a grand and divine temple of Lord Shri Ram at his birthplace in the ancient holy city of Ayodhya is a historic and glorious achievement for the country. This heralds the establishment of 'Ram Rajya' in India for the next 1,000 years with the beginning of a new Kalachakra," said the BJP resolution.

The resolution said the temple is a symbol of India's vision, philosophy and path. "Shri Ram temple has truly become a temple of national consciousness", it claimed, adding that every Indian was happy to see the divine consecration of Lord Shri Ram.

It noted that Lord Ram, Goddess Sita and the Ramayana are present in every aspect of Indian civilisation and culture. "Even in the original copy of the Constitution of India, on the section of fundamental rights, the picture of Lord Ram, Goddess Sita and Lakshman is a proof that the Lord is the source of inspiration for the fundamental rights," it noted.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
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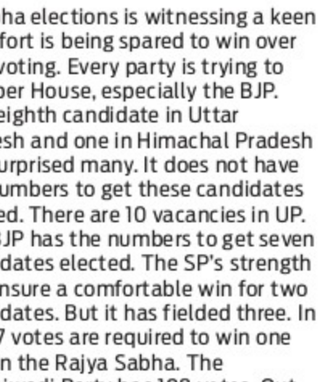
Follow him on X@Shahid_Faridi_

Game On

PARTIES GO ALL OUT TO WIN RAJYA SABHA POLLS

The current round of Rajya Sabha elections is witnessing a keen contest between parties. No effort is being spared to win over rival MLAs and engineer cross-voting. Every party is trying to shore up its strength in the Upper House, especially the BJP. The BJP's decision to field the eighth candidate in Uttar Pradesh and one in Himachal Pradesh has surprised many. It does not have the numbers to get these candidates elected. There are 10 vacancies in UP. The BJP has the numbers to get seven candidates elected. The SP's strength can ensure a comfortable win for two candidates. But it has fielded three. In UP, 37 votes are required to win one seat in the Rajya Sabha. The Samajwadi Party has 108 votes. Out of this, one MLA – Pallavi Patel – has announced that she'll not vote for the two forward caste candidates fielded by her party – cine star Jaya Bachchan and former chief secretary of the state Alok Ranjan. Two other MLAs of SP are in jail. This has brought down the party's effective strength to 105. This is the shortfall that the BJP's eighth candidate Sanjay Seth – a prominent realtor and former treasurer of the Samajwadi Party – is trying to exploit. If Seth manages to win over some of his old friends in SP, it will cause a major upset and lead to the defeat of one of the three SP candidates. Similarly in Himachal Pradesh, the BJP has fielded former Congressman Harsh Mahajan even though the party does not have the numbers to get him elected. The party is hoping that Mahajan will be able to win the votes of the Congress MLAs who are reportedly unhappy with the party for fielding Abhishek Manu Singhvi, an "outsider". In Himachal, votes of 35 MLAs are required for a candidate to get elected to the Rajya Sabha. In the 68-member House, the Congress currently has 40 MLAs, the BJP has 25 and there are three independents. On paper, the Congress candidate appears set for a comfortable victory. But Mahajan's entry into the arena has queered the pitch for the state's ruling party.



Election 2024

RAWAT, SIDHU LIKELY TO JOIN BJP ON POLL-EVE

Even as former Madhya Pradesh chief minister and senior Congress leader Kamal Nath is busy negotiating with the BJP, many other senior Congress leaders are queuing up to join the ruling party in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections. Sources said among the prominent leaders who are reportedly headed towards the BJP are former Uttarakhand chief minister Harish Rawat and ex-president of the Punjab state Congress Navjot Singh Sidhu. Sidhu has been sidelined by the Congress in Punjab and he has been holding independent public meetings. There have been calls for disciplinary action against him for holding parallel meetings. According to sources, the Congress central leadership is unlikely to give him any major responsibility after the party's disastrous performance in the Punjab state elections under his leadership. Sidhu is now reportedly looking at BJP as an option. Sources said Rawat has also been contacted by the BJP. There was talk of his joining the party some time back when the state chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami visited him at his residence. However, Rawat dismissed the speculations saying there is no question of his leaving the Congress at this stage of his life. But sources said the BJP may be able to persuade him this time round.

51-nation naval drill to formulate SOPs

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

WITH the oceans emerging as strategic grounds for geopolitical shift, the Indian Navy is set to welcome 50 countries and work on finding ways to handle emerging scenarios and develop agreements on operational procedures to assist in three-dimensional scenarios.

The scenarios will be complex three dimensional: air, surface and underwater. Indian Navy's deputy chief Vice-Admiral Tarun Sobti said Milan 2024 is a major endeavour to get together friendly foreign countries for significant maritime activity. He said 51 countries will participate in the event.

"While delegation-level participation is confirmed from more than 30 countries, 15 others will send their warships. The French Navy will come with an aircraft," Sobti said.

From the Indian side, nearly 20 ships, including aircraft carriers Vikrant and Vikramaditya, and almost 50 aircraft will participate in the exercise.

The world's significant navies are sending their warships, which include ones from Russia, France, the US, Japan, Australia, Iran, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka. Pakistan and China will not be part of this exercise. Canada will send its delegation headed by a commander.

The navies will be allowed to incorporate and instil the best practices and procedures and enable doctrinal learning in the maritime domain through professional interactions.

The Indian Navy is actively maintaining international relations with other nations, militarily and diplomatically. The exercise aligns with India's international diplomatic efforts, namely 'Act East Policy' and 'Security And Growth for All in the Region'.

It is the twelfth edition of this exercise, with its largest-ever participation of over 50 friendly foreign navies, and it will be conducted from February 19-27 at Visakhapatnam.

It would comprise two phases — 'Harbour' and 'Sea'. The 'harbour' phase, aimed to promote cultural and professional sharing amongst the participants, would comprise of a maritime seminar, city parade at RK Beach, maritime tech exhibition, subject matter expert exchange, Milan of Young Officers and sporting events.

Ranging from surface and sub-surface manoeuvres to aerial engagements, the four-day 'sea' phase would see scenario-based missions, live gunnery firings, maritime interdiction and VBSS, anti-surface, anti-submarine and air defence exercises, and large force sustenance using shared replenishment resources.

12th edition sees largest participation
Indian Navy's 'Milan-24', to be conducted from February 19-27 at Visakhapatnam, is the twelfth edition of this maritime exercise. This year marks the largest-ever participation of over 50 friendly foreign navies. The exercise would comprise two phases — 'Harbour' phase and 'Sea' phase, with a host of activities.

World's major drill excludes Pak, China
Nearly 20 Indian ships will participate in the exercise, which will see world's major navies including Russia, the US, Japan, Iran, Myanmar and Australia sending their warships. The French Navy will come with an aircraft. Canada will send its delegation headed by a commander. Pakistan and China will not be part of this exercise.

Pitch for restoration of 'Hindu State' grows louder in Nepali Congress

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

NEPAL will celebrate Prajatantra diwas (Democracy day) on the national level, and Nepali Congress the Mahasamiti Day, on Monday. Meanwhile, as many as 22 members of the Nepali Congress are spearheading the idea of restoration of a Hindu State in Nepal, which other member resist including in their agenda.

"The Mahasamiti Day meeting will be held in Godavari, Lalitpur. The restoration of the Hindu State has been proposed by 22 members and a petition signed, though the party's central working committee has not accepted it. However, since 81 per cent of citizens of Nepal are Hindus and even the Prime Minister and President take part in all rituals including the recently concluded Basant Panchami celebrations, the voice for restoration of Hindu State is gathering momentum," said a source privy to information.

On Monday (February 19), the members supporting the restoration of Hindu State are looking at having a discussion on what they call 'Vedic Sanatan Hindu Rastra'. The Nepali Congress president is former Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba.

Nepal officially became a Republic on May 28, 2008. The first meeting of the constituent assembly of Nepal took place on that day, ending the 240-year reign of Shah Kings.

"Even though Nepal is a secular State, it is proud of its Hindu lineage. In fact, the present leadership in Nepal —Prime Minister Pushpa Kamla Dahal and President Ram Chandra Poudel — are also keen that this restoration to Hindu State is debated about," the source said, adding that all political parties were in support of this.

As per the statute, the Mahasamiti meeting should convene every year, but due to various reasons, it has been deferred since the 14th general convention in December 2021.

Supporting members to put their heads together
On Monday, as Nepal celebrates its Democracy Day, the Nepali Congress members supporting the restoration of Hindu State are looking at having a discussion on what they call 'Vedic Sanatan Hindu Rastra'.

Court to hear Sharad faction's plea against EC order today

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court will, on Monday, hear the Sharad Pawar faction's petition challenging an Election Commission order recognising Ajit Pawar faction as the real NCP and granting it the clock symbol.

A three-judge bench comprising Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and K V Viswanathan will hear the matter. On February 12, the Sharad Pawar-led faction moved top court, challenging the EC's order. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the leader, had sought an urgent hearing of the case on February 19.

He said that because of the poll panel order, Sharad Pawar will likely face the whip of Ajit Pawar in the Maharashtra Assembly session scheduled to get underway on February 20.

"This is a matter of extreme urgency. Because of the Election Commission order, Sharad Pawar will be subject to the whip of Ajit Pawar. The session in Maharashtra starts next week. We have not been given any symbol at all," he said.

Political parties urged to list steps against junk food in their manifestos

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

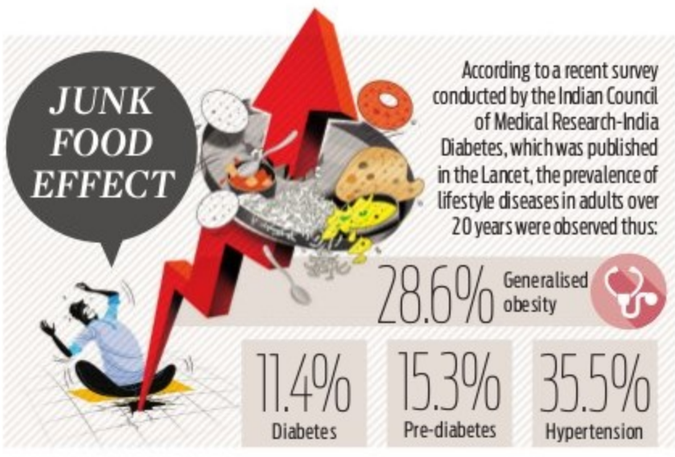
A national think-tank of independent medical experts, paediatricians and nutritionists has written to political parties to include in their manifesto measures to stop the rising consumption of junk food.

The Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest-India (NAPi) has also written to parliamentarians to seek a political solution to the issue.

In their letters, the experts have urged the political parties to promise in their manifestos to bring a legislature to provide warning labels on food products containing high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) and put reasonable restrictions on the advertising of junk foods to protect people's health, especially children and youth from developing non-communicable diseases.

Extensive scientific evidence has found associations between increasing consumption of HFSS food products with overweight, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, cancers, depression, and mental health issues, the letter said.

Apart from political parties, they have also written to MPs, including BJP leaders Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh, former health minister Dr Harshvardhan, and former MoS for environment Prakash Javadekar; Congress leaders Shashi Tharoor, P Chidambaram and Jairam Ramesh; DMK's Kanimozhi, Sharad Pawar-led NCP's Supriya Sule, and TMC's Derek O'Brien, among others.


JUNK FOOD EFFECT
According to a recent survey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes, which was published in the Lancet, the prevalence of lifestyle diseases in adults over 20 years were observed thus:
28.6% Generalised obesity
11.4% Diabetes
15.3% Pre-diabetes
35.5% Hypertension

Attaching this paper's January 25 article on the 'Rising consumption of junk food may lead to obesity and diabetes in Indians', the NAPi letter urged the politicians that as the 2024 elections draw close, it may be worthwhile to consider this critical public health issue and hoped the issue gets reflected in the Party manifesto.

According to Dr Arun Gupta, Convener, NAPi, "It is the political parties which form governments both at the centre and the states. We want to make them aware of the rising consumption of junk food and resulting obesity and diabetes, and they may like to show their commitment to public health through their manifesto."

ESCAPE

An accused in the case related to the seizure of 2,988 kg of heroin at Mundra port in Gujarat in 2021 escaped from police custody in Punjab, where he was taken for a court appearance in another case, police said on Sunday.

2 HANG THEMSELVES OVER RISING DEBT IN MAHA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	33	19	Mumbai	33	24
Bhopal	30	17	Panaji	33	22
Jaipur	31	19	Patna	26	14
Amritsar	22	12	Lucknow	25	13
Chennai	31	24	Port Blair	31	26
Kolkata	29	19	Imphal	24	09
Srinagar	04	02	Chandigarh	24	18

MP Congress fears fresh exodus

Speculation rife over a dozen party MLAs quitting if Kamal Nath makes a switch to BJP

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

REWIND to March 2020, when 22 Congress MLAs (mostly loyal to Jyotiraditya Scindia) walked out of the Congress pulling down the 15-month-old Kamal Nath-led Congress regime in Madhya Pradesh.

Nearly four years later, the grand old party is apprehensive of another exodus of its sitting and former MLAs in Madhya Pradesh, if its former state party chief Kamal Nath or his first-time MP son Nakul Nath or both of them join the BJP.

The Congress' central leadership, including Sonia Gandhi and her MP son Rahul Gandhi, are reportedly making all possible efforts to convince Nath to respect his decades-old bonding with the party and not join the BJP. However, back in Bhopal, the state Congress leadership too is engaged in damage control.

The state Congress leadership continues to maintain that neither Kamal Nath nor any other former or existing MLAs will join the BJP.

However, it is already talking to its 66 sitting MLAs individually to ensure no damage or least damage to its ranks ahead of the February 22 arrival of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in MP.

Sources in the Nath camp said if Nath actually joins or even his son Nakul Nath and daughter-in-law Priya Nath make a switch to the BJP, they will not be alone. It will be accompanied by 15-20 sitting MLAs, 5-8 former MLAs (many of whom lost the 2023 assembly polls) and two mayors.

Most of the sitting MLAs who might follow Nath and his family into the BJP, include the six MLAs of Chhindwara and Pandhurna districts, besides MLAs from adjoining Balaghat, Seoni, Mandla and Dindori districts.

These districts form a part of Nath's home region – Mahakoshal – which sends 17 out of the 66 present Congress MLAs.

The legislators from the Mahakoshal region include all six MLAs from Chhindwara and Pandhurna districts (Nath being the seventh MLA) which form Nath's son Nakul Nath's Lok Sabha constituency Chhindwara.

The list also includes some senior and first-time MLAs from adjoining districts, including ex-minister and third-time sitting MLA from Jabalpur-East seat Lakhan Ghanghoriya, second-time MLA from Paraswada seat Madhu Bhagat, Baihar MLA Sanjay Uike and Waraseoni MLA Vicky Patel.

Not just MLAs from the tribal-dominated Mahakoshal region, but some MLAs loyal and close to Nath from other regions also could follow their leader into the BJP.

Also, many of Congress's 2023 assembly poll big losers, including ex-ministers Sajjan Singh Verma, Tarun Bhanot, Vijaylaxmi Sadho, Ravi Joshi and Sukhdev Panse (Verma and Panse are reportedly camping in Delhi) and fourth-time former MLA from Chhindwara seat Deepak Saxena (who had vacated his seat for Nath in 2018) are also likely to walk behind Nath.

However, it's not clear whether senior MLA from Rajpur-ST seat and ex-home minister Bala Bachchan would also follow Nath into the BJP.

Party says in touch with all MLAs

The state Congress leadership continues to maintain that neither Kamal Nath nor any other former or existing MLAs will join the BJP. However, it is already talking to its 66 sitting MLAs individually to ensure least damage to its ranks. This is significant as Rahul Gandhi's yatra enters MP on February 22. Sources in the Nath camp said if Nath actually joins the BJP, they will not be alone. They will be accompanied by 15-20 MLAs.

Farmer stir casts shadow on BJP's tie-up with SAD

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

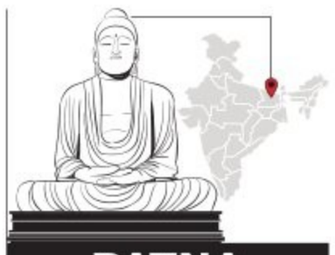
THE Punjab BJP is worried over the fresh round of agitation by farmer unions as the party leaders fear that they might face the same hostilities as during the 13-month-long farm stir against the now repealed laws in 2020-21. The current stir may also cast a shadow on the prospective alliance of the BJP with its former ally the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD).

BJP worries stem from the fact that the agitating farmers have barred the entry of its leaders in villages. Besides, SAD has reportedly asked for more time before it could get down to the nitty-gritty of a fresh alliance following the fresh round of the farmer agitation. Farmers are key vote bank of SAD in the state.

A senior state BJP leader admitted that the farmers' stir has added an element of uncertainty to a host of party plans. If the agitation prolongs, it could impact the party's prospects in the upcoming parliamentary elections, especially in the rural areas where the party had started to make inroads. "We expect that the SCs and OBCs to support the BJP," he said.

"Although our alliance with SAD is on the cards, the farmers' agitation has obstructed its early fruition. The Akalis may not take any chances to annoy their rural vote bank, especially the peasantry," said another saffron party leader. Senior SAD leader Prem Singh Chandumajra said the prospects of an alliance depended on the evolving situation.

Talking with this newspaper, political analyst Prof Kuldeep Singh said the farmers believe that there has been no follow-up to the promises made to the farmers at the time of the withdrawal of three farm laws. "So, state BJP leaders and workers are naturally pessimistic about the shape of things in the near future," he added. Sources said the BJP's state unit was once seen as being dominated by Hindus from urban areas.



PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR

Our correspondent in Bihar

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Kushwaha's party name changed to RLM

Former union minister Upendra Kushwaha's party's name formerly called 'Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal (RLJD)' has been changed to 'Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM)' after approval from the election commission of India (ECI). The official name of his party will be RLM. The change of name of his party has been done due to similarities in the name of existing parties. With ECI's approval, Kushwaha's party will be known as 'Rashtriya Lok Morcha'. He said his party was preparing for the 40 Lok Sabha seats. He, however, added discussions were underway on how many seats the party would contest.

Jolt to CPI-ML after Manzil disqualified

CPI-ML (Liberation) received a severe jolt when its firebrand leader and MLA from Agiaon assembly constituency Manoj Kumar Manzil was disqualified from Bihar legislative assembly following his conviction in a murder case. An MP/MLA court in Ara sentenced him to undergo life imprisonment in a case related to the murder of one J P Singh ahead of 2015 assembly election. The first time MLA gained popularity in his constituency due to his 'Sadak Pe School' campaign. He used to highlight poor infrastructure in government run schools largely affecting studies of the students.

Probe into ₹10 crore offer to JD(U) MLAs

Bihar government has asked Economic Offences Unit to probe the alleged offer of ₹10 crore or a cabinet berth to a JD(U) MLAs for switching sides, two days before the floor test of the newly formed NDA government. Harlakhi MLA Sudhanshu Shekhar had lodged an FIR with Patna's Kotwali police station, alleging the offer of ₹10 crore or a cabinet berth by Opposition to vote against the Nitish Kumar led NDA government. In the two-page FIR, Shekhar also alleged that two other MLAs, Krishna Murari Sharan and Niranjan Kumar Mehta, were also offered cabinet berths and money, respectively, for voting against the ruling.

CAF officer in C'garh hacked to death by Naxals

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

A small action team of the outlawed Maoists hacked a company commander of Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) to death at Kutru village market place in strife-torn Bijapur district about 350 km south of Raipur on Sunday.

According to the Bijapur police, the incident occurred when the CAF officer Tijau Ram Bhuvariya, along with a personnel Shyam Bihari, moved some 100 metres away from the small party of the fourth battalion of the CAF that had gone to the weekly haat bazar (market).

The Maoists attacked Bhuvariya with a sharp-edged weapon and he died at the spot. The constable who accompanied him fled back to the camp, which was some 200 metre away from the incident site. Before the forces could rush to the area from the camp, the Maoists escaped into a forest.

"Reinforcement has been sent to the area and the search operation intensified", the Bijapur police stated. The incident occurred a day after the banned outfit CPI (Maoist) had responded to the peace dialogue proposal by the BJP regime specifying some preconditions. The rebels asked to halt police operations, release of their jailed cadres among others.

Rape survivor accuses Tripura court judge of sexual harassment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

A woman in Tripura, who was allegedly raped only a few days ago, said she was sexually harassed by a judicial magistrate inside his chamber in a local court, prompting the authorities to initiate a probe into her allegation.

The authorities constituted a three-member probe team which is headed by Dhalai District and Sessions Judge Gautam Sarkar. According to the woman's complaint lodged with the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Kamalpur in the form of a written affidavit, the incident took place on February 16 when she was summoned to give her statement under Section 164 of the CrPC pertaining to the February 8 case of rape lodged with the Kachucherra police station. The police have already arrested the rape accused

"The judicial magistrate first class called me inside his chamber while the police constable was asked to stay outside. I narrated everything that I went through at the hands of my perpetrator," she said.

She alleged soon after her statement was recorded, the judge groped her. She said she rushed out of his chamber and informed the lawyers and her husband about the incident.

At the advice of the lawyers, her husband lodged a separate complaint with the Kamalpur Bar Association seeking justice. The accused Judicial Magistrate reportedly told some journalists he has evidence to prove he was not guilty. Sarkar and Chief Judicial Magistrate Satyajit Das visited the office of the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Kamalpur in connection with the investigation.

Shibendra Dasgupta, secretary of the lawyers' body, told reporters when the probe team met the members of the Kamalpur Bar Association on the court premises, they shared their views as sought on the woman's allegation. V Pandey, who is the Registrar General of Tripura High Court, assured of appropriate action in the case.

'Not guilty'

The accused Judicial Magistrate reportedly told some journalists he has evidence to prove he was not guilty. Sarkar and Chief Judicial Magistrate Satyajit Das visited the office of the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Kamalpur in connection with the investigation.

Sandeshkhali complainant's house attacked, her kids moved to 'safe' place

PRANAB MONDAL @ Sandeshkhali

A day after police added two grave charges—like gangrape and attempt to murder—to a case following a homemaker's deposition in front of a magistrate of Basirhat court, the asbestos-roof house of the complainant in Sandeshkhali was attacked at Saturday midnight by a group of miscreants wearing police uniform.

The frightened mother of three, who was in hiding since deposing her statement, described the attack as a "spine chilling" warning for narrating the sexual assault on her in front of the magistrate and she fears backlash from her tormentors once the additional police contingent and administrative personnel will leave the North 24 Parganas island.

"I sent my two daughters to my relative's house. I was in hiding fearing attack for deposing in front of the magistrates accusing Shahjahan's two henchmen Shibaprasad Hazra and Uttam Sardar. The youngest daughter was at home with my elderly father-in-law as my husband hs also taken refuge in a relative's house. The attackers in police fatigue claimed they were special police personnel from outside. They first dug a hole on the thatched-wall by hitting non-stop and then inserted stick through it to beat my daughter and her grandfather," the woman said.

Recounting sexual assault on her by Shibaprasad and Uttam, both were arrested by police during the stir in Sandeshkhali over past two weeks, the homemaker said it took place five months ago in the local party office. "I was asked to go there at night for attending a meeting. I narrated my plights before the magistrate," she said.

The party office, a five-minute walk from the complainant's house, wears the wounds on its wall caused by the locals' ire after the unrest in the TMC's turf broke out. Angry villagers pelted stones at the structure.

The police said the allegation of attack on the complainant's house is under investigation.

The arrest of Shibaprasad shortly after the police included two grave IPC section a case related to sexual abuse on women brought smile back on the faces of locals. Gautam Das, who identified as a TMC supporter, was seen distributing sweets among traders, drivers in Rajbari market.

A man distributes sweets after Shahjahan's aide Shibaprasad Hazra's arrest | EXPRESS

AIBA cautions about Prez rule in WB

The All India Bar Association (AIBA) has written to the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee cautioning about demands of a President's Rule in the state after it witnessed horrific incidents of sexual assault and violence in Sandeshkhali. AIBA Chairman and Senior Advocate Dr Adish C Aggarwala has also condemned the incident and the lackadaisical approach of the West Bengal Police and authorities

Haldwani violence: 58 arrested so far, day curfew lifted as situation improves

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

Day curfew lifted in Banbhulpura area of Haldwani | EXPRESS

THE Uttarakhand police have arrested 14 more people for their alleged involvement in the Haldwani violence case, taking the total number of arrests to 58, police sources said on Sunday.

With the situation improving, the curfew imposed in the Banbhulpura area after the riots and arson incidents on February 8 the day curfew has been lifted. Removal of a madrasa and prayer site on the encroached Nazul land in Haldwani City triggered violence in the area. According to the police sources, "On Saturday, 14 more suspects were arrested for their roles in the arson and stone-throwing incidents, raising the total number of arrests to 58".

"Three people wanted in this connection were also arrested. Their posters were circulated in the city along with offering rewards for their capture".

On Saturday evening, during a media interaction at the multipurpose police building, SSP Prahlad Narayan Meena stated, "In the Banbhoopura case, two FIRs were filed by the police and one by the municipal corporation. In this context, 44 individuals were initially arrested, while 14 more have now been arrested."

According to police, Shakeel Ansari, Mokin Saifi and Ziaul Rehman, who were arrested on Saturday, were also on the police's wanted list. At the same time, Shariq and Mohd. Danish, who had snatched the magazine of the PAC jawan, has also been recovered from his possession. Four petrol bombs have also been found from the house of a person named Faizan. In the meantime, a 5-member delegation from the Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind arrived in Haldwani intending to reinstate peace and harmony in the city following the recent unrest. The delegation held meetings with local authorities and those impacted by the events. Spokesperson for the delegation, Mohd Shahnazar, told this daily, "Regarding the events of February 8 as a tragic occurrence, we have told the community to move past it and work towards reconciling any divides that have emerged."

Go-ahead for caste census in Jharkhand

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

CHIEF Minister Champai Soren on Sunday gave his approval for caste-based census in Jharkhand making it the third state in the country to conduct caste survey after Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

After the caste census was carried out in Bihar, many parties had started demanding the same in Jharkhand also. Notably, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had also promised a caste census during his 'Nyay Yatra' in Jharkhand.

According to sources, the problems related to census have been resolved with the chief minister's consent and the Personnel, Administrative Reforms and Rajbhasha Department has instructed to expedite the process.

The previous government led by former chief minister Hemant Soren also wanted to conduct the same, but could not take a decision on the department that would do it. The time frame for conducting the survey, however, is not yet clear.

RPSC stops disabled candidate from taking civil exam, slapped with ₹5L fine

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

IN a significant ruling, the Rajasthan High Court has levied a fine of ₹5 lakh on the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) for its refusal to allow a visually impaired candidate to participate in the RAS Pre-2021 examination. The decision was handed down by Justice Sameer Jain, who accepted the petition filed by Kuldeep Jaiman, the petitioner. The court then directed the RPSC to ensure that the fine of Rs 5 lakh is paid to the victim within four weeks.

The High Court, in its judgment, criticised RPSC for creating unnecessary barriers for visually impaired candidates, preventing them from taking part in the examination. It deemed RPSC's decision to bar the candidate from appearing in the examination as arbitrary and unwarranted.

The case stemmed from Kuldeep Jaiman, a petitioner who is 100 percent blind, being denied entry to the RAS Recruitment Examination-2021 despite applying for it. Jaiman's lawyer, Shovit Jhajharia, highlighted that on October 27, 2021, when Jaiman arrived at the examination center in Alwar district with a writer (colleague), he was informed that he should have notified RPSC about the writer two days in advance, a requirement he was unaware of. Additionally, he was asked for a medical certificate regarding his blindness, which he did not possess at the time, resulting in his exclusion from the examination.

The High Court, in its ruling, clarified that RPSC's directive for advance notice pertains only to candidates requiring a writer provided by RPSC, not those bringing their own writer, as indicated by the petitioner during the online form filling process. Thus, RPSC's insistence on advance notice was deemed unnecessary.

Furthermore, the court denounced RPSC's refusal based on the lack of a medical certificate, pointing out that RPSC had issued the admit card for the blind category to the candidate himself. The court emphasized that RPSC's own regulations prohibited the carrying of any material other than the admit card, PAN, or passport-sized photo to the examination center.

While acknowledging that the selection process for RAS Recruitment Examination-2021 had concluded, rendering the petitioner's request for inclusion in the examination moot, the court emphasised the mental anguish and harassment endured by the petitioner. Consequently, RPSC was directed to pay a fine within four weeks.

'Unnecessary barriers'

The High Court, in its judgment, criticised RPSC for creating unnecessary barriers for visually impaired candidates, preventing them from taking part in the examination. It deemed RPSC's decision as arbitrary and unwarranted. It denounced RPSC's refusal based on the lack of a medical certificate, pointing out that RPSC had issued the admit card for the blind category to the candidate himself.

6

cops were injured and 13 suspects arrested after rival groups of Eritreans fought battles in The Hague

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • WI: Windy • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	5	-5	SNY	Los Angeles	18	4	LR
Colombo	31	23	SNY	Melbourne	24	13	SNY
Dhaka	29	17	SNY	Moscow	-5	-12	LC
Dubai	24	14	SNY	New York	5	-5	SNY
Houston	19	7	SNY	Singapore	33	24	TDS
Istanbul	10	3	LC	Toronto	-1	-4	SNY
London	14	6	LR	Washington	9	-2	SNY

Prospects dim for ceasefire after US says it will veto new UN resolution

Separate truce talks also hit an impasse with Israeli PM rejecting some Hamas demands

GAZA STRIP

PROSPECTS for an Israel-Hamas ceasefire dimmed Sunday after the United States signalled it would veto the latest push for a UN Security Council resolution sought by Algeria demanding an immediate ceasefire, as Washington instead favours a temporary truce and hostage release deal.

Mediator Qatar also acknowledged that separate truce talks have hit an impasse after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected some Hamas demands as "ludicrous"..

Efforts to pause the over four-month-old war languish as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to reject international appeals to spare Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, where around 1.4 million people have sought refuge.

Israel's relentless campaign against Hamas militants has edged closer to the city, with attacks killing at least 10 people there and in central Gaza's Deir al-Balah overnight to Sunday, according to official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

At the morgue of a Rafah hospital, mourners bent down to give a final kiss to a loved one wrapped in a white body bag.

"That's my cousin -- he was martyred in al-Mawasi, in the 'safe area'," said Ahmad Muhammad Aburizq. "And my mother was martyred the day before. "There's no safe place. Even the hospital is not safe."

Displaced Palestinian children carry rations of red lentil soup distributed by volunteers in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip | AFP

A total of 127 people died over the previous 24 hours, the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Sunday.

The Gaza war began with Hamas's October 7 attack which resulted in the deaths of about 1,160 people in Israel, mostly civilians.

Vowing to destroy Hamas, Israel's retaliatory bombardment and ground offensive in Gaza have killed at least 28,985 people, mostly women and children, according to the health ministry. Egypt, which controls the Rafah border crossing from Gaza, has repeatedly warned against any "forced displacement" of Palestinians into the Sinai desert. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Saturday reiterated his opposition. In a phone call with French President Emmanuel Macron, both leaders agreed instead on the "necessity of the swift advancement of a ceasefire".

Thousands hold protest

Even if a temporary truce deal is struck, Netanyahu said the ground invasion of Rafah will go ahead.

Countries urging Israel otherwise are effectively saying "lose the war", argued the prime minister, whose coalition includes religious and ultra-nationalist parties.

Netanyahu spoke as thousands protested in Tel Aviv, the latest public call for an immediate election. They also accused the government of abandoning the hostages.

"Take politics out of decisions about our loved ones' lives," demanded Nissan Calderon, brother of hostage Ofer Calderon.

"This is the moment of truth. There won't be many more like it if the Cairo initiative collapses." *AFP*

WAR WATCH

ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 133

GAZA TOLL SO FAR

28,985

- Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva accused Israel of committing "genocide" against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and compared its actions to Adolf Hitler's campaign to exterminate Jews.
- Israeli forces killed two Palestinian men during a raid at a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank.

'NO LONGER FUNCTIONING'

WHO head Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said a team of the UN health agency was denied entry to Nasser Hospital "to assess the patients' conditions. "The hospital is not functional anymore," he wrote on X.

PML-N, PPP fail to reach consensus on power-sharing

ISLAMABAD

THE talks between the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the Pakistan Peoples Party on a power-sharing formula for a coalition government remained inconclusive, though both sides claimed 'significant progress' in the discussions, according to a media report on Sunday. The third meeting between the Contact and Coordination Committees (CCCs) of the two parties, which took place on Saturday, remained inconclusive and both decided to meet again on Monday to finalise the power-sharing formula.

A brief announcement issued by the PML-N after the meeting said that there had been 'significant progress' in talks with both sides, stressing the need for a 'strong democratic government'.

"The proposals put forth by both parties were thoroughly discussed, and while substantial progress was achieved, further deliberations are required to finalise the matters at hand," a joint statement read.

Nawaz Sharif led PML-N has nominated Shehbaz Sharif for the Prime Minister's post.

Independent candidates — a majority backed by former prime minister Imran Khan's party, PTI, won 93 of the 265 National Assembly seats that were contested in the February 8 election. The PML-N won 75 seats while the PPP came third with 54 seats. The Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan has also agreed to support them with their 17 seats. To form a government, a party must win 133 seats out of 265 contested seats in the 266-member National Assembly.

During Saturday's meeting, the PML-N was represented by Ishaq Dar, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Azam Nazeer Tarar and Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, whereas those representing the PPP included former Sindh chief minister Murad Ali Shah, Saeed Ghani, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Nadeem Afzal Chan and Nawab Sanaullah Zehri. *PTI*

PTI SUPPORTERS CLASH WITH POLICE

Lahore: Supporters of Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), clashed with police in various cities as they staged protests against alleged rigging in the elections. The protesters demanded the restoration of their 'stolen mandate' and called for rectified results based on the vote count as per Form 45 prepared at polling stations under the watch of polling agents. *PTI*

PML-N supporters celebrate their party's victory in Lahore | AP (FILE PIC)

BILAWAL REVEALS OFFER BY PML-N

Islamabad: Former Pakistan foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday revealed the power-sharing formula he was offered in which the prime minister's post would be shared between his party and former premier Nawaz Sharif's PML-N, with which it formed a post-poll alliance. However, the Pakistan Peoples Party chairman denied it.

EXPRESS READ

Gold mine landslide: Turkey detains company director as part of inquiry

Istanbul: Authorities in Turkey on Sunday detained the director of the company managing a gold mine where a massive landslide left nine workers missing, local media said. A huge landslide engulfed the Anagold Madencilik company's Copler mine, trapping the workers under tons of rubble. *AP*

US envoy visits makeshift shrine to Navalny amid heavy police curbs

MOSCOW

THE US ambassador to Moscow visited a makeshift shrine to Alexei Navalny on Sunday, as Russian authorities suppressed memorials and tributes to the late opposition leader.

Rights groups say police have detained over 400 people at gatherings for the politician, a leading critic of President Vladimir Putin who died in an Arctic prison Friday.

Ambassador Lynne Tracy was pictured on Sunday at the Solovetsky Stone, a monument to political repression that has become a major site of tributes for Navalny. "Today at the Solovetsky Stone we mourn the death of Alexei Navalny and other victims of political repression in Russia," the US embassy in Moscow said on social media. "We extend our deepest condolences to Alexei Navalny's family, colleagues and supporters. His strength is an inspiring example. We honour his memory," it said.

At a separate makeshift memorial known as the "Wall of Grief", a bronze monument to Soviet-era repression, police had set up fences in a bid to ward off mourners.

A woman places flowers at a makeshift memorial for Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny at the Russian embassy in Bucharest, Romania | AFP

Several dozen police officers could be seen standing nearby, but some people were allowed to enter through the fence and lay flowers.

Navalny, aged 47, was seen by many Russians as their best hope for change after years of perceived corruption and spiralling state oppression.

His death after over three years behind bars sparked a storm of condemnation from the West and despair among his supporters, many of whom are young people. *AFP*

Confident of US Congress approval for renewed war aid, Biden tells Zelenskyy

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Saturday told Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy that he is "confident" the US Congress will renew war aid, but added that without American help Kyiv could lose further territory to Russian advances.

"I spoke with Zelenskyy this afternoon to let him know that I was confident we're going to get that money," Biden told reporters after attending church in Delaware.

Failure by US lawmakers to approve new funding for military aid to Kyiv would be "absurd" and "unethical," he said, adding: "I'm going to fight to get them the ammunition they need." The leaders spoke hours after Russia captured the eastern Ukrainian stronghold of Avdiivka, a major symbolic victory for Russian President Vladimir Putin. Avdiivka, now mostly destroyed, had been a symbol of Ukraine's determined resistance to Russian aggression since 2014.

US president Joe Biden with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy

The White House said in a statement the Ukrainian withdrawal from the town came "after Ukrainian soldiers had to ration ammunition due to dwindling supplies as a result of congressional inaction, resulting in Russia's first notable gains in months." *AFP*

China: Does not sell lethal weapons to Russia

BEIJING: China's foreign minister has told his Ukrainian counterpart that Beijing does not sell lethal weapons to Russia for its war against Ukraine, a statement said Sunday. Wang Yi told Dmytro Kuleba during a meeting on the sidelines of a major security conference in Munich that China "does not take any advantage of the situation, and does not sell lethal weapons to conflict areas or parties to the conflict", according to a foreign ministry readout. China says it is a neutral party in the Ukraine conflict but has been criticised for refusing to condemn Moscow for its offensive. China and Russia have ramped up economic cooperation and diplomatic contacts in recent years, and their strategic partner-ship has grown closer since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. *AFP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the General Public, that my client, **Smt. Ruma Sen,** W/o Sanjay Sen, Aged about 42 years, Residing at No.55/8/1/1, 7th Cross, 1st Main, Maruthinagar, Yelahanka, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560 064, is intending to purchase the Residential immovable property vacant Site bearing No.32A, BBMP Khatha No.11357/20/6/32A, Assessment No.20/6, measuring East to West-30-0 Feet and North to South - 30-0 Feet, in all measuring 900 Square Feet, situated at Agrahara Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk presently Yelahanka Taluk, from Sri.H.S.Bhogesh S/o Late. Siddananjaiah. If any person or persons, Banks, Society, Firm, Company or any other Body having any right, title, interest, claim or whatsoever in respect of the aforesaid Property may lodge there objection, claims in writting with the documentary evidence within **20 days** from the date of publication of this Notice to my client or her Counsel. If any objections or whatsoever issued or replied beyond 20 days shall not be consider and my client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims and to complete the sale transaction by execution of sale deed.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that the piece and parcel of the Residential immovable property vacant Site bearing No.32A, BBMP Khatha No.11357/20/6/32A, Assessment No.20/6, measuring East to West 30-0 Feet and North to South 30-0 Feet, in all measuring 900 Square Feet, situated at Agrahara Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk presently Yelahanka Taluk, together with all the rights, liberties, privileges, hereditaments, appurtenances, etc., whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on: **East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Site No.32, **North by:** Site No.13A, **South by:** Road.

K.N. AMBARISHA, Advocate
No.2, Kooralappa Complex, Maruthinagar, Kogilu Main Road, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560 064.
Mob: 9980433527, 8050510671

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- II AT BANGALORE
BSNL BUILDING, FOURTH FLOOR, TELEPHONE HOUSE, RAJBHAVAN ROAD, BANGALORE.
O.A.NO: 254 OF 2022

BETWEEN:
CANARA BANK, BTM LAYOUT, BRANCH - I, BANGALORE - 560 076 ...APPLICANT

AND
M/s. SURBHUP SERVICES PVT LTD & OTHERS ....DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS/NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PRCEDURE) RULES, 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To,
DEF 2: MR. PRADEEP KUMAR. T, S/o. Sri. Thimmaiah, Aged about 40 years, Director, M/s. Surbhup Services Pvt Ltd, No. 530, 16th Main Road, 15th Cross, Near Chandana School, D Group Layout, BANGALORE - 560 091.
DEF 3. MRS. SHRUTHI. A.P, W/o. Mr. Pradeep Kumar. T, Aged about 36 years. Director, M/s. Surbhup Services Pvt Ltd, No. 530, 16th Main Road, 15th Cross, Near Chandana School, D Group Layout, BANGALORE - 560 091.
Whereas the Applicant has instituted the Application U/s. 19 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against the Defendants for recovery of sum of **Rs. 1,07,67,500-00** along with interest at **12.50 %** p.a. compounded monthly on the OD Facility and at **9.50 % p.a.** compounded monthly on the GECL Facility from date of application till date of recovery and other reliefs. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of the summons on or before **22-03-2024 at 10:30 AM** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand the seal of the Tribunal Day of **16/01/24** at Bangalore.

Signature of the Officer
(Authorized to issue Summons)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II
BANGALORE - 560 001

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DOCUMENT LOST

I, **Bhanumathy Muthuvelan** W/o Muthuvelan, aged 67 years, R/o Subramanyapuram, Madurai District now at Indlabele Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk have lost the original document while taking zerox copies of few documents is as follows Document No. ABL-1-05366-2013-14, dated 20-12-2013 pertaining to property/ Villa No. 5, measuring 1200 Sq.ft. of Indlabele Village, Attibele Hobali, Anekal Taluk, Hence this affidavit to obtain the duplicate from the competant authority sworn to before notary K. Velayudhan at Attibele - 562 107 on 14-02-2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHERUVATHOOR DAVID MATHEW (C.D. MATHEW), aged about 81 years, son of Late C.M.David, residing at No.C-18, Kudremukh Colony Near St.John's Hospital, Koramangala Block II, Bangalore 560034, lost the original sale deed dated 15.07.1981, bearing document **No.1293/1981** and sale deed dated 16.03.1982, bearing document **No.388/1982,** both registered at the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Kunnamkulam, Trichur District Kerala, in the name of Mrs.Santa, wife of Mr.Cheruvathoor David Mathew at his aforesaid residence while doing maintenance of the house at 4.00 pm on 06.02.2024 and an affidavit dated 16.02.2024 has been sworn before the Advocate & Notary Mr.B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore & a Police Complaint stating the loss has been filed by him on 09.02.2024. If the said original sale deeds are found, please contact the undersigned.

Jessie Thomas, Advocate, B.A., LL.B., LL.M.
No.4 (Old No.319/3), 20th 'C' Cross 80 feet Road, Opp. Indoor Stadium 8th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095. Phone : 9845169302
Place : Bangalore Date : 18.02.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform General Public that my client **Smt. SHWETHA. M,** W/o Venkatesh. M Residing at No.22/68, 5th Cross, Thanisandra Main Road, Manjunatha Layout, SRK Post, Bangalore-560 077, (the Purchaser) has entered into Agreement of Sale with **Ms. G. MANASA,** D/o Sri. A. Gopal, residing at No. 158, 8th Cross, 8th Main, HMT Layout, R. T. Nagar Post, Bangalore – 560 032, and Others (the owners) in respect of the Schedule Property mentioned below.

Any person/s, firm, trust, company or anybody having any form of right, title or interest over the Schedule Property may lodge their Objections with valid proof/documents ***within 7 days*** from the date of this Notice to the undersigned. Any Objections received after 7 days will not be entertained and my Client will proceed to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing **Site No. 19,** Khatha No. 132 (old No. 132 & 132/A), BBMP Khatha No. 2013/19/105/3A (old 2013/19/20/105/3A), formed in Property No. 105/3A, situated at **RACHENAHALLI Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** within the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Ward No. 6 Thanisandra Ward, Bangalore, **measuring East to West 40 ft, North to South 30 ft in total measuring 1200 sq ft,** and bounded on:
East by: Road;
West by: Compound wall of R & S Riviers Apartments (previously Canara Bank Colony)
North by: Site No. 20;
South by: Site No. 18.

Sd/-
VENKATESHA. M.T., *Advocate,*
No.636, 1st Main, Patel Munivenkatappa Layout, Near De Grand Hotel, Nagawara, Arabic College Post, Bangalore - 560 045.
Ph. No. 9986044393 / 7022075279
E-Mail – venkateshamt05@gmail.com
Bangalore Dated: 17-02-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of General Public that our Client is intending to Purchase the immovable property bearing No.18, PID No.40-203-18. situated at 2nd Cross, BCC Layout, BBMP Ward No.40, New BBMP Ward No.132, Bangalore. measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq ft along with constructed building thereon 1000 Sq ft of RCC Roof house with Brick and Cement, Red Oxide and Jungle Wood (hereinafter referred as Schedule Property) and bounded as:
East by : Property bearing No.19,
West by : Property bearing No.17
North by : Road,
South by : Property bearing No. 15
From its Owner **Srl.S V GUNASHEKAR** and **Smt.S G KALYANI**, both are Residing at No.25, 5th Cross, Hosahalli, Vijayanagar Bangalore-560 040. any person having any right claim or interest over the Schedule property may lodge their objections/claim in writing to the undersigned. With documentary proof within 10 days from the date of this publication in the event of no claim being received within stipulated Ten (10) days our client will proceed with further transactions to purchase the schedule Property and no claims will be entertained after the said period.

Mrs. Chaithanya S Advocate
No.210, Alphine Block, Vaishnavi Serene, IVRI Road Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064
Mob:7349119632/ 9844277558

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is issued on behalf of My clients **1.Mr.Boreddy Manohar Reddy s/o Sri.Boreddy Ramachandra Reddy** and **2.Mrs.Pedballi Karishma w/o Mr.Boreddy Manohar Reddy** to bring the notice of the general public that they are intend to purchase the schedule property from **M/s.Green Investments** Represented by its **Partner Mr.Masood Ahmed.** If any, person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the Schedule Property by way of inheritance, sale, agreement, mortgage, lease, lien, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within **Seven (07) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, with all supporting documents failing which reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of immovable **Site No.15,** Formed in Converted Sy.No.41/1 and Converted Sy.No.41/1, (Both Properties Converted Vide Order No.ALN (E.K.H.W) SR 48/2011-12, dated.11/09/2011, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District, Bangalore), Situated at **Pattandur Agrahara Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** Bangalore, measuring East to West : on the Northern Side 34 feet 6 inches, on the Southern Side 33 feet 10 inches and North to South : on the Eastern Side 54 feet 4 Inches, on the Western Side 55 feet 8 Inches, totally measuring **1879 Sq.feet,** and bounded on :-
East by : Site No.14, West by : Private Property, North by : Private Property, South by : Road.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor.
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE LXXXIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS (COMMERCIAL COURT) AT BENGALURU (CCH-85)
COM. EX. PET. No. 654/2023

BETWEEN : M/s. Ashitha House Building Co-operative Society (Regd.) Having its Office at No. 12 & 13, 1st Floor, Sumana Complex, Shalivahana Road, Nazarbad, MYSURU-570010
Represented by its President: Sri. P.T. Girish, Aged about 49 years, S/o. Late Thimmegowda
...DECREE HOLDER

AND : Sri. P.D. Chandrakanth and others
...JUDGEMENT DEBTORS

NOTICE TO JDR Nos. 1 & 2

1. Sri. P.D. Chandrakanth, aged about 63 years, S/o. Late P. Doddappagowda, Residing at No. 202, Aashiana Apartment, No. 47/10, 6th 'A' Cross, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560080.

2. Sri. A. PUSHPARAJA SHETTY, Aged about 68 years, S/o Sri. Jagannatha Shetty, Residing at No.603, S.L.R. Mansion, 1st Block, Basaveshwaranagar, BENGALURU-560079.

WHEREAS the DHR has filed the above Execution Petition to direct the JDRs to execute and register the sale deeds for remaining 37 sites in the schedule Property to the petition, failing which on the part of the judgement debtors this Hon'ble Court be pleased, through the Court Process, to execute and register the sale deeds in favour of the said members of the Decree Holder Society.

You are hereby warned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed **on the day of 15.03.2024 at 11'o clock,** to answer the same, failing which the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 14.02.2024.

By Order of the Court, Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Decree Holder :
N.G. Sreedhar, Advocate
No.39, 20th 'A' Main, 1st 'R' Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-10.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby notified that, my client is intending to buy the below mentioned schedule property, from its owner **Mr.Rangappa.B S/o Bachhappa,** Residing at Door No:84, 2nd Cross, Near Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Dooravani nagara Post, B. Narayanapura, Bangalore Urban, if anyone having any interest over the said property in any manner kind may approach and submit your Objections with documents to the below mentioned advocate within **7 days,** or else it will be treated that there are no objections from the any one at any corner.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the agriculture property bearing **Sy No:51/2** measuring **3 acre,** Standing in the names of Mr.Rangappa.B S/o Bachhappa, **Mattabarlu Village, Channarayapattana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562110,** Bounded on:
East by : Sy No.51/1 and 50, West by : Sy No:52/1 and 52/2, North by : Yaliyuru Boundary and Sy no:132, South by : Road and Remaining Property of the same Sy No.

Mr.Manoj Gowda.P, Advocate,
M.G.P Advocate Associates,
Opp- Mini Vidhana Soudha,
B.B.Road, Devanahalli Town- 562110.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Lost of Documents)

This is to inform the general public that I **Gopalaiah N,** S/o.Late.Mr.Rangegowda , Owner of the below mentioned property and I have lost the original deeds described below:

a. Sale deed dated 25/02/2022 registered as Doc. No. HBB-1-05291/2021-22 , at SRO Hebbala (Gandhinagar) executed by Mr. R Raju favoring me.
b. Agreement of sale dated 22/09/2012 registered as Doc. No. JAL- 1-02708/2012-12 at SRO Jala, executed by Mr. R Raju favoring Sri Lingaraju.
c. Sale deed dated 05/08/2008 registered as Dc. No. JAL-1-01164/2008-09 at SRO Jala , executed by Mr. Sirajulla Khan favoring Mr. R Raju.
d. Sale deed dated 24/05/1995-96 registered as Doc. No. 1333/1995-96 at SRO Yelahanka executed by Smt. Gurushanthamma favoring Mr. Sirajulla Khan.

In respect of the property bearing Sy. No. 147 ,measuring an extent of 2 Acres situated at Kuduregere Village, Jala Hobali, Yelahanka Taluk, In this regard a police complaint has also been lodged to Bangalore City Police on 13/02/2024 bearing vide E-lost report No. 0929961/2024. If anyone finds the said original documents, kindly hand over to below mentioned address.
Address: No.9/1, Gangothri, 60-0 Ft Road, S V Layout, Bangalore – 560 094.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public are hereby notified that **M/s. IDFC FIRST BANK LTD,** having address at No.C-1, R.P.Pride, 1st & 2nd Floor, 20th Main, Road, KHB 5th Block, near Ganapati Temple, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 is intending to invest certain loans on the Property bearing Site No.174 farmed in converted Sy.No.12/8B (Re.Sy.No. 12/8C), 17/1 and 15/4, situated at Vinayaka Lake View, Lakshmipura Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk which stands in the name of **1) Mr.Vijay Kumar.N. S/o Nagaraj. D.N. 2) Mr.N.Manoj Kumar S/o Nagaraj.D.N. and 3)Mr.Nagaraj.D.N S/o Late Dodda Narayanappa.** Therefore any person/s having any claim in respect of the above said property or part thereof, by the way of Sale, Exchange, Gift, Mortgage, Charge, Trust, lease, Sub lease, Tenancy, Inheritance, Possession, Lien or Minor interest otherwise, however are hereby make the same known in writing together with Supporting documents to the undersigned at their office within **7 days** from the date of this publication and objections and /or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client and will proceed on the property as if there are no claimants/objections.

All the piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.174 formed in converted Sy.No.12/8B (Re.Sy.No 12/8C), 17/1 and 15/4, converted from agriculture to non agriculture residential purposes vide conversation order No.ALN(N.Y) SR.52/2009-10 dated 02.12.2009 and No.ALN(N,Y) SR.51/2009-10 dated 02.12.2009, situated at **Vinayaka Lake View, Lakshmipura Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk.**

MEASURING
East to West :40 Feet;
North to south :30 Feet; Totally-1200 Sq.Feet.
AND BOUNDED ON:
East by : Site No: 182;
West by : 25 Feet Road;
North by : 30 Feet Road;
South by : Site No: 175.

Together with House building constructed thereon consisting of Ground Floor measuring - 1000 Sq.Feet and Second Floor measuring-400 Sq.Feet. The House is RCC Roof, Vitrified Flooring, Doors and Windows of Honne Wood with Water, Electricity and Sanitary connections.

Ullas M. Advocate,
No. 27, 1st Floor, Hospital Road Balepete, Bangalore - 560053 Mob.: 8970220019
Email: ullas.lawinc@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

DOCUMENT LOST

Through this public notice that my client **T.N. Narasimha Murthy Gowda,** son of late Nanjundappa, aged about 65 years residing at no.1, Maruthi Nilaya, 2nd Cross, Lake Shore Garden, Thindlu, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097, represent to me that the original sale deed dated 12-5-1948 bearing document No. 3763/1947-48, in respect of Sy.No.4 of Jakkasandra Village, Bengaluru North Taluk and other relevant records in respect of the aforesaid land while travelling in B.M.T.C. bus on 12/02/2024. Inspite of best efforts my client could not found the same. In this regard my client lodged a complaint before the jurisdictional police viz. Vidyaranyapura police station, Bengaluru, on 13-02-2024. Hence, the public are hereby notified that if anybody found the above said documents, please hand over the same to undersigned person or to my client.

A.C. SATHISHA, Advocate
No.39/2, Chamber No.3, Basement, A.S.V.N.V. Bhavan, Kempe gowda Road, Bengaluru-560 009. Mob: 9845490849,
Date:17-02-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client has negotiated/ entered into agreement of sale for purchase of the immovable Property described in the schedule hereunder from its owner **Sri. P. ABHILASH,** Aged about 36 years, S/o.Sri.P.Prabhakar Reddy. Residing at No.3, 2nd 'B' Main, OMBR Layout, Banaswadi, Kalyannagar Post, BANGALORE - 560 043.
Whereas the owner claim that he is sole and absolute owner thereof

It is hereby informed to the general public that any person/s, agent/s, Bank/s Financial Institution/s, etc, having any manner of claims, charge, mortgage, right, title and Interest, sale, lease, exchange, lien, gift, trust, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, license, easement or otherwise of whatsoever nature, howsoever etc., in respect of the schedule property are hereby informed to make the same known to the undersigned in writing supported by documents as proof and evidence, within a period of ***14 days*** from the date of Publication of this notice, failing which the claim/s or objections if any such claims shall be considered will be deemed to have been waived and/ discharged forever my clients will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the immovable Property bearing Residential Vacant Now BBMP **Site/ Khatha No.136, PID No.84-85-136,** situated at **5th Cross, Pilla Reddy Nagar, Chikkabanaswadi, Old Ward No.84, New Ward No27, Bangalore.**
Measuring **East to West: 56 feet 1 inches + 48 feet 4 inches/2** and **North to South: 51 feet 4 inches + 57 feet/2, in all totally approximately measuring 2800 square feet** and bounded on the:
East by : Passage,
West by : 4th 'C' Main Road,
North by : Property belongs to Sri.Devaraj & Smt.Savithri,
South by : 2nd 'A' Cross Road.

Sd/-
V. HARIHARA, Advocate
4th Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, BANGALORE-560 038
Mobile: 9844122876
Date: 19.02.2024 Place: Bengaluru

₹3,776 CR have been pulled out by foreign investors from Indian equities in February so far.

Get your money back: A guide to claim your missed tax refunds

If a taxpayer misses a refund due to an expired cheque, she should reach out to Assessing Officer for a reissue and might require to submit an indemnity bond

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

A middle-aged woman recently approached a chartered accountant regarding a tax refund she missed as the cheque returned. This refund pertained to the Assessment Year (AY) 2018-19, and she received the cheque at her previous address.

Unfortunately, by the time she was aware of the cheque, it had expired. Many taxpayers are receiving refunds for previous years through cheques, whereas, current refunds are typically processed online. In such cases, it is crucial to update your address with the tax authorities to prevent missing refunds. If a cheque becomes outdated, it can no longer be cashed. This article will delve into the process of reclaiming a refund in such situations.

When a taxpayer misses a tax refund due to an expired cheque or other reasons, they should reach out to their Assessing Officer (AO) for a reissue, say tax experts. The AO is the designated officer responsible for assessing the taxpayer's income tax liabilities.

"The taxpayer's jurisdictional AO is determined based on the address mentioned in their PAN (Permanent Account Number) records. These details can be found on the e-filing portal. After identifying the jurisdictional AO, the taxpayer can visit the AO's office to discuss the refund reissue process," said Chetan Daga, who is a chartered accountant and founder of AdvantEdge Consulting.

The AO may request the taxpayer to submit an indemnity bond as a form of security. An indemnity bond is a legal document that serves as a form of assurance or guarantee between two parties.

In the context of tax refunds, when a taxpayer is asked to submit an indemnity bond, it typically means that the taxpayer is providing a written promise to compensate the tax authorities in case there are any issues or liabilities related to the refund reissuance process. By signing the indemnity bond, the taxpayer agrees to indemnify or compensate the tax department if any problems arise concerning the refund.

"The taxpayer can update their bank details on the e-filing portal, typically provided by the income tax department. Once the bank details are updated, the refund will be issued afresh through a bank transfer, instead of a physical cheque," said Daga.

According to CA Rohit Vishnoi, partner with RPMG and Associates, the taxpayers can also send an email to or m@cpc.incometax.gov.in to seek assistance and raise grievances related to income tax matters. Taxpayers can use this email address to rectify errors or discrepancies in their income tax returns filed online. He says that the resolution process is faster through the email process. In addition, the taxpayers can also contact these toll-free numbers: 18001030025, 18004190025, 8046122000 and 80614647000 to seek help, guidance and information related to tax refunds. However, formal complaints might need to be submitted through other channels such as email or in writing to the appropriate tax authorities. Experts suggest that multiple visits may require to complete the formalities and paperwork to obtain the refund. The process typically involves contacting the Assessing Officer, submitting essential documents like an indemnity bond, updating bank details, and liaising with the jurisdictional AO to facilitate the reissuance of the tax refund. While assistance can be obtained through toll-free numbers and email, personal visits may be required in such instances.

I-T refund

- After AY 2018-19, the government streamlined the tax refund process by moving it online
- The taxpayer's jurisdictional AO is determined based on the address mentioned in their PAN records
- AO might request the taxpayer to submit an indemnity bond as a form of security

After the Assessment Year (AY) 2018-19, the government streamlined the tax refund process by moving it online.

Taxpayers are now required to link their bank accounts to their Aadhaar and PAN numbers, validating them through the income tax e-filing portal. According to Vishnoi, if the bank account is not validated on the income tax e-filing portal, the refund may encounter difficulties.

While this process aims to improve efficiency, it's important to note that issues like incorrect bank details or other discrepancies could still impact the refund process.

"Timely updates of personal details, including address, email, and phone number, can prevent delays and potential refund issues. Taxpayers should also regularly check their e-filing portal accounts for any notifications or updates regarding their refunds to stay informed about the status of their claims. Seeking guidance from tax professionals or utilizing online resources provided by the I-T department can offer valuable insights and assistance in resolving refund-related queries," stated Vishnoi.

MONEY MATTERS

KNOW HOW TO READ THE FINE PRINT

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

A lot of your success with money is about awareness. You need to know the right direction to give your money. The awareness is possible only if you invest in knowledge. It may sound like a sermon from a sage.

However, knowing is everything in the world of personal finance. You need to know about the opportunity that comes to you. Your future depends on the way you utilise that opportunity.

Share prices in India are soaring. That is because of substantial domestic and foreign money in Indian equity assets. The net monthly flows in January 2024 into equity or equity-linked mutual funds topped ₹ 21,000 crore.

You are creating an impactful investment already if you are an equity mutual fund investor. There is solid support for Indian equities in the form of this money in a downturn. The fine print reading you must do is that share prices in India may not fall sharply due to the cushion of your regular investing.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

The other issue is the weakness in the Chinese market. There are visible signs of an economic slowdown in China. Prominent global fund managers have recommended pulling out money from China and investing in markets like India. That has prompted many large global investors to allocate more money to Indian equity assets than the Chinese. Since share prices are at a record high, the money will likely come to India over the next several months.

The value of the rupee is also likely to get a boost. India's government bonds will likely be included in international benchmark bond indices. That is likely to increase the flow of foreign money into India. The year ahead is likely to be eventful for the rupee.

There are more tailwinds than headwinds, as a result of which the rupee is likely to remain steady or inch up against major currencies in the world.

That makes India an attractive destination for foreign investors. India is already the largest recipient of remittances from non-resident Indians globally.

If you are a regular investor in the stock market and directly buy or sell shares, you are probably waiting and watching for that correction. Considering the strong inflows into Indian equities from local and foreign investors, a sharp correction is unlikely.

However, you will have chances if you stay on top of the information cycle. You need to know about opportunities that could be created in the months ahead.

Choosing it right

The big picture in India favours robust economic growth over the next several years. That is irrespective of the government in power. Investment advisors advise playing the economy and identifying companies that would ride on robust growth. However, when you look to buy these companies, valuations are already sky-high. That means market price multiples are way too high than fundamentals for comfort. You are supposed to enter your investment in price-earnings multiples that are lower than they are today. However, it is worthwhile to keep an eye on the fine print.

Most listed companies have earnings calls after quarterly results. You can sense the mood at the corporate management level through those conversations. The transcripts are online for you to read if you do not have the temperament to listen to the audio version. If you search for keywords like 'outlook', 'growth', 'inflation', 'pricing' or 'guidance', you will find valuable comments from company management.

For example, despite a sharp rally in hotel company shares over the past year, there is a lot of confidence exuded by management in the sector. The growth outlook is robust for these companies as most of us are choosing to travel within the country. Indian Hotels, the top hotel company that manages Taj and Ginger properties in India and abroad, has projected a double-digit revenue growth. Companies in the sector use profits to reduce debt and run an efficient operation. That is possible only if people travel more within the country or come to India from overseas. Even if you cannot travel on holiday in the year ahead, investing in the sector could see you have enough money to pay for your next holiday.

MONEY-WISE

DO NOT COMPROMISE ON HEALTH INSURANCE COVER

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

(Views expressed here are personal)

WITH abysmal health insurance penetration across India, even as medical costs are escalating vertically, it would have made good sense for the government to seriously considering at least doubling the Income-Tax break under Section 80D of the Income Tax Act.

This could at least spur a few more people to widen their health insurance cover closer to today's ground realities as far as hospitalisation costs are concerned. That a majority of the even otherwise few Indians who have Health Insurance cover decide its quantum based on Tax Break limits, is no secret. For those who remain unconvinced of the need for higher health insurance or for that matter, even basic health insurance, there is enough anecdotal evidence of how the hospitalisation bills of several coronavirus-affected patients reportedly ran into several lakhs and in some cases, even over a crore. Even those who had a relatively high health insurance cover found themselves having to pay out of pocket once the cover was exhausted. The results of a survey undertaken by a private player in the health insurance space a few years ago showed that prior to the pandemic, barely 10% of those with the means, were interested in health insurance to cover new-age diseases. But since the advent of the fear instilled by the pandemic, 71% started considering health insurance a necessity.

Notably, and almost overnight, 57% of those surveyed claimed to understand the importance of comprehensive health insurance plans. The survey also suggested that with the advent of the pandemic, the top three concerns in the minds of people became, family members contracting the disease, risk of job loss and mental anxiety.

One of our clients took a serious re-look at his existing Health Insurance Cover and 'Ported' his existing cover which suddenly seemed woefully inadequate to a private player which also facilitated a multi-fold expansion in his base cover. As a matter of extreme prudence, he also chose a Super Top-Up at a marginal cost from another insurance company his wife had her base cover with. He did it vice versa for his wife and now rest assured that his wife and he are, in fact, more than adequately covered for this lifetime. Several of our clients too are now in the process of porting and topping up their health insurance cover.

While there seems to be better awareness about the need for adequate health cover, the tendency to defer acting on it till it is too late remains. That amounts to negligence on the part of those who can afford it. By delaying action, one is potentially putting one's family and oneself at high monetary risk at the most inopportune moment. Thus, there is a very strong case for those without Health Insurance Cover to get one immediately and for those with cover to have it reviewed by an expert at the earliest and topped-up, if necessary.

Zoho's ManageEngine looks Middle East, Latin America for growth

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

ZOHO Corp's ManageEngine is focusing on increasing its business in emerging markets such as the Middle East, South East Asia and Latin America to spur growth, as its key western market witnesses demand slowdown. The company is working to improve its presence in these countries along with improving domestic business, which on an aggregate basis has around 45% revenue growth. The places driving growth include UAE, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Nigeria, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The developing world is growing faster, these are the areas where growth rates are much higher, said Rajesh Ganesan, President of ManageEngine. He said Manage Engine is opening local offices, improving their presence in these regions with dedicated local teams and partnership.

The US, UK, Europe, Australia and New Zealand, which contribute roughly 70% of its business, are facing a 'clear slowdown'. However the company said it doesn't affect its business. Bootstrapped Zoho Corp touched the billion dollar revenue mark in 2022 and ManageEngine also aspires to touch the level in two years.

The company's challenge comes at a time when IT firms are facing disruption from artificial intelligence.

Shailesh Davey, VP of Engineering at ManageEngine said, "Zoho ManageEngine is working on R&D related to small and medium language models which are specific functions based AI models." He called them contextual intelligence. Shailesh said anomaly detection, predictive analysis and cyber security are some of the areas where AI could help apart from some of the existing functions like customer support. Enterprise customers are already seeking AI-based applications and AI roadmap to plan their work flow in future, he added.

Government to extend RoDTEP benefits to exports from SEZ units

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU@ @New Delhi

THE government has decided to expand the RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) scheme to include exports from Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export Oriented Units (EOUs), sources told TNIE.

This decision was communicated to the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on February 16. DGFT may issue a formal notification amending the Foreign Trade Policy, said a source close to the development. According to trade analysts, the decision may be a disproportionately high bonanza for high import intensive exports from SEZs. However, it overlooks exports from other categories that are in a similar situation as SEZs.

Under the RoDTEP scheme, taxes and duties that are not rebated under any other scheme are refunded to exporters. This includes various central, state, and local duties/taxes/levies that are incurred in the process of manufacturing and distribution of exported products but are not refunded through schemes like GST or Duty Drawback scheme.

RoDTEP does not include all exports. Products exported from SEZs, EOUs, Electronic Hardware Technology Parks (EHTP), Biotechnology Parks (BTP), and Customs bonded warehouses are currently excluded from RoDTEP benefits. Also, exports under Advance Authorisation (which allows duty-free imports of inputs for export production), re-exported imported goods, exports subjected to minimum export price or export duty and supplies from Domestic Tariff Areas (DTAs) to SEZ/Free Trade and Warehousing Zones (FTWZ) units are not eligible for RODTEP scheme.

According to Ajay Srivastava, founder and CEO of Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), extending the RoDTEP scheme to exports from SEZs may lead to overcompensation for import intensive exports from SEZs. "For large-scale exports from SEZs, such as electronics, petroleum products, and jewellery, which have high import content, RoDTEP could represent a significant incentive," he says, adding that a lot of big exports from SEZs, like electronics (including smartphones), petroleum products, diamonds, and gold jewellery, add less than 10% of their value in India.

"This means over 90% of what makes up these products comes from imports, which don't have to pay duties. If these exports get a 3% incentive from the RODTEP scheme, it means they earn an extra $30 for every $100 they make. If we add other incentives like PLI, the figure will be very high," he added.

Bitcoin may surpass $60k mark soon, say experts

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

BITCOIN, which hit $52,000 and regained $1 trillion in market value after 26 months last week, may soon hit $60,000, according to experts.

They say there is increased buying pressure among crypto investors in anticipation of halving event in April.

Parth Chaturvedi, Investments Lead, CoinSwitch Ventures said both demand and supply side factors are having a direct impact on prices, sending Bitcoin to price levels that it achieved in 2021.

The crypto industry faced a chilling winter for nearly two years. However, in 2023, Bitcoin's price surged by more than 125%, primarily in anticipation of the launch of spot Bitcoin ETFs (exchange- traded funds) in the US.

"The approval of spot Bitcoin ETFs has led to increased institutional interest, with the offerings from BlackRock and Fidelity already amassing more than $5 billion and $4 billion in Bitcoin AUMs. They are the most successful ETF offerings ever, and it has only been their first month of launch. This constant buying pressure has resulted in a significant increase in Bitcoin's price and a broader acceptance of crypto as a legitimate asset class," he added.

According to Edul Patel, CEO of Mudrex, the next psychological threshold to overcome is $55,000, paving the way for a potential ascent to $60,000. "While a temporary dip is expected, the trajectory suggests Bitcoin may surpass the $60,000 mark and continue its upward trend before the halving event," he added.

Though investor sentiment towards Bitcoin appears to be bullish, investors need to be cautious before making any investment decision.

"While the current momentum is encouraging, the volatility of the cryptocurrency market means that prices can fluctuate quickly. Investors should therefore carefully assess their risk tolerance and investment objectives before entering the market," said Sathvik Vishwanath, Co-Founder & CEO, Unocoin.

Napolitano bags Bengaluru Open

Italy's Stefano Napolitano showed wonderful persistence to ward off ninth seed Seongchan Hong of South Korea in the final to grab his maiden Challenger title at the Bengaluru Open. The seventh-seeded won 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in a match that lasted close to two hours. The title triumph also helped him bag 100 ranking points.

Historic gold: India truly Asia in Malaysia

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

IT was poetic that Anmol Kharb could take India to the finish line on Sunday.

Soon after fetching the winning point, Anmol, who has been the story of Indian badminton in the last few days, could be seen making a dash towards national chief coach Pullela Gopichand and giving him a double high five. The other team members, including senior pro, PV Sindhu, and support staff were quick to flock her and hold her aloft. It was a moment of unadulterated joy as the team tried to soak in what they had just pulled off — a first-ever gold medal in the Badminton Asia Team Championships (BATC).

The 17-year-old Anmol had been summoned to action on the day with the gold medal contest locked at 2-2 between India women and their Thailand counterparts in Shah Alam, Malaysia. As she did against China and Japan, the teenager delivered like a seasoned pro against Pornpicha Choeikeewong, beating her 21-14, 21-9 and helping the team achieve unprecedented result.

"It is a big thing because history has been scripted here. Yesterday (after the semifinal win) it went crazy in India because beating powerhouses like Japan and China was such a big thing. Today (Sunday) it will be a full-on celebration in India and the team as well," Anmol told BATC channel.

India women shuttlers pose with gold medals on Sunday | BAI

Before Anmol's heroics, Sindhu and the doubles duo of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly had made their presence felt to hand India a 2-0 lead. Ashmita Chaliha and the second combination of Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra, however, had lost to let Thailand stay in the contest.

BAI's gamble pays off

The women's team's historical feat is a welcome tonic for Indian badminton. Several top international players had given this continental event a miss but India had their own doubts. There were questions over Sindhu, who was making a return after an injury break. The tricky proposition around her return and the lack of international experience with youngsters like Anmol and Tanvi Sharma made it even harder for the team.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Don't feel valued or respected as a coach in India: Schopman

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Rourkela

A TEARY-EYED Janneke Schopman, the coach of the Indian women's hockey team, said that she didn't feel valued or supported by the sport's decision makers in the country. Across an eight-minute interaction in the mixed zone after India's Pro League encounter against the US on Sunday, the 46-year-old said: "I felt alone a lot in the last two years."

Schopman, whose tenure as head coach began after the 2021 Olympics, opened up on the everyday challenges of dealing with people within Hockey India while being a woman. "Very hard, very hard," the 46-year-old said. "Because, I come from a culture where women are respected and valued. I don't feel that here. From not very many people – and I do feel people working here on the ground are amazing from Hockey India (HI) – but I feel it's so hard.

"I look at the difference at how men's coaches are treated between me and the men's coach, or the girls and the men's team, just in general. They never complain and they work so hard. I am not saying, I don't know, I don't know why and I shouldn't speak for them so I won't. I love them. I think they work so hard, they do what I ask, they wanna learn, wanna do new things but for me personally coming from the Netherlands, having worked in the USA, this country is extremely difficult as a woman, coming from a culture where, yeah, you can have an opinion and it's valued. It's really hard."

In hindsight, the Dutchwoman, who was part of the backroom staff when they finished fourth at the Tokyo Games, felt she should have walked after the 2022 Commonwealth Games. "If you asked my family, I should have left after a year. In hindsight, I should have left after the Commonwealth Games because it was too hard for me to manage.

"But I coach with full intensity and I have no regrets because I made that decision myself. Will I stay? Maybe despite the fact that I know it's tough. Very hard to be away from my family and I choose it so no one has to feel sorry for me."

While she didn't take any names, she said a few people wouldn't even acknowledge her presence. "Even when I was the assistant coach, some people wouldn't even look at me or wouldn't acknowledge me or wouldn't respond and then you become the chief coach and all of a sudden, people are interested in you. I struggled a lot with that. That is one thing. Like I said, Elena Norman (HI CEO) has been very, very supportive always and she's kept me in this position." She also said that Dilip Tirkey, the current HI president, supported her.

I have spoken to the players a little. I appreciate their opinion. They are the ones in charge. I think they need to want me to be there, that's the first decision. Also, I need to want to be there. Hockey India needs to want me to be there.

— Janneke Schopman, on whether she will continue as the coach

The hardest bit for Schopman, though, was having this feeling that people even within HI not taking her seriously. "The fact that I feel — I don't even know if it's true — that I'm not taken seriously," she said.

When asked if she has seen the men's team get preferential treatment, she said: "I don't know. I just know that when the World Cup didn't go well for the men's team, all focus was on them. Since February 2023, all the focus was on the men's team."

While Schopman is undecided on staying on as coach — "I don't know is the honest answer," is what she said — the main thing, according to her, is what the players think. "I'm going to reflect, 'did I do a good enough job, yes or no?'. I need to ask that myself.

"I have spoken to the players a little. I appreciate their opinion. They are the ones in charge. I think they need to want me to be there, that's the first decision. Also, I need to want to be there. Hockey India needs to want me to be there. At this point, I must say Dilip Tirkey has been very very supportive since the Asian Games and that, I have appreciated a lot. It's been tough for me, the team. I must say the support I haven't felt a lot in the last year so his support means a lot."

It's not yet known whether HI, which is scheduled to have a meeting in the next day or two, will retain her. Her role came under some scrutiny after India lost out on qualifying for the Olympics twice (at the Asian Games and an Olympic qualifier at home) in five months. "After the Olympic qualifier, we knew that the Pro League was happening really fast," she said.

"I think everyone, including myself, struggled a lot, also being back in Bhubaneswar, for the first week (of the Pro League) because it hurts too much. I think now it's a little bit less but still we will carry it around (the hurt). I think the next five days I finally have a breather because, to be fair, the girls and myself, we haven't had any time off. I think it's been six months which is too much."

If Schopman stays on, one can only hope for the situation to change.

Jaiswal, Sarfaraz take the game away from Eng before Jadeja helps India take 2-1 lead

GOMESH S @ Rajkot

IF you were driving through the Rajkot highway towards Jamnagar on Sunday afternoon, at some point you would have heard the chants "Bumrah...Bumrah...Bumrah" or at least the echoes of it. Unlike the first three days, the crowd attendance (23,679) at the Niranjan Shah Stadium was significantly higher. For starters, it was a holiday, and also, the match was poised in such a position that India might just take 2-1 lead. And that is exactly what happened. Yashasvi Jaiswal scored a double century, and set a target of 557 and local lad Ravindra Jadeja took five to hand India a 434-run victory — the biggest run margin for an Indian Test win.

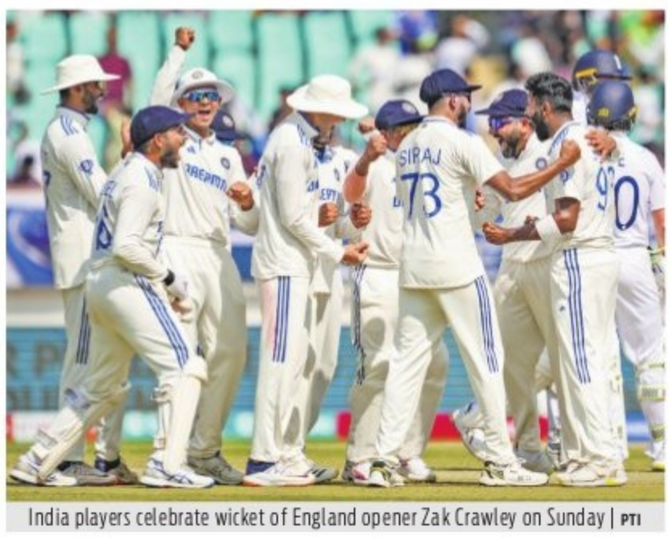
However, if you'd told anyone that this is how the match would unfold at the start of day three, not many would have bought into it. England were cruising at 207/2, India had lost their lead spinner in R Ashwin, who would return and take a wicket on Sunday, and Ben Duckett looked like he was running away with the game. From there, India induced a collapse to secure a 126-run lead, and then Jaiswal smashed a century to put the hosts on the front foot. Even with a 322-run deficit on Friday evening, England didn't seem flustered. Duckett was confident that England would go for whatever target that's put in front of them.

The thing, though, is that one cannot really read too much into that comment. Any team wouldn't want to admit defeat or concede that they have no chance of coming back with two days left in the match. Even more so with this England, who seemed to be in a bubble of positive reaffirmation. So, if you ask any English cricketer at that point, they would have spoken the same way Duckett did. What they were not ready for was two young Indian batters tearing them apart. Jaiswal and Sarfaraz Khan put the foot on the accelerator and ensured there was no breathing space for England. For the visitors, with the massive target on one side, the pressure of batting through four sessions on a surface that was assisting spinners was another. And it was evident with the way Duckett and Zak Crawley started. There was a bit of tentativeness early on, and the left-hander was ran out by a brilliant effort from Mohammed Siraj and Dhruv Jurel. Bumrah then sent back Crawley, but once the spinners came on, there was little left to do for him and Siraj.

With no pressure of target, Rohit Sharma kept close-in, attacking fields as Kuldeep Yadav and Jadeja bowled from either ends. If bowling on a day-four Indian pitch wasn't enough, Jadeja had grown up on this ground. His record here is Bradmansque to say the least. He did what he always does best, kept running in and pitching the ball consistently in the right areas — here a tad fuller, ensuring that there was no room for sweeps. And yet, that is exactly what England batters did. Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow, adamant on sweeping, were eventually trapped on pads, Ollie Pope gave an edge to Rohit at slips and Ben Stokes was caught on the backfoot to Kuldeep.

All Ashwin had to do was clean up Tom Hartley, who was frustrating the hosts, and Jadeja did the rest taking the wickets of Ben Foakes and Mark Wood. Another fourth-inning fifer, a long list of them in this venue in first-class cricket, and a player of the match award. For India, it was a significant 2-1 lead and a win by the biggest run margin ever.

Full story: newindianexpress.com



India players celebrate wicket of England opener Zak Crawley on Sunday | PTI

INDIA 1ST INNINGS: 445
ENGLAND 1ST INNINGS: 319

India 2nd Innings: (O/196/2) Jaiswal not out 214, Sharma lbw b Root 19, Gill run out 91, Patidar c Ahmed b Hartley 0, Kuldeep c Root b Ahmed 27, Sarfaraz not out 68; **Extras:** (lb 9, w 2) 11; **Total:** (4 wickets in 98 ovs): 430 decl; **FoW:** 1-30, 1-185, 2-191 , 3-246, 4-258; **Bowling:** Anderson 13-1-78-0, Root 27-3-111-1, Hartley 23-2-78-1, Wood 10-0-46-0, Ahmed 25-1-108-1.

SCOREBOARD

England 2nd Innings: Crawley lbw Bumrah 11, Duckett run out 4, Pope c Sharma b Jadeja 3, Root lbw Jadeja 7, Bairstow lbw Jadeja 4, Stokes lbw Kuldeep 15, Foakes c Jurel b Jadeja 16, Ahmed c Siraj b Kuldeep 0, Hartley b Ashwin 16, Wood c Jaiswal b Jadeja 33, Anderson not out 1; **Extras:** (b 5, lb 4, nb 3) 12, **Total:** (all out in 39.4 ovs) 122; **FoW:** 1-15, 2-18, 3-20, 4-28, 5-50, 6-50, 7-50, 8-82, 9-91; **Bowling:** Bumrah 8-1-18-1, Siraj 5-2-16-0, Jadeja 12.4-4-41-5, Kuldeep 8-2-19-2, Ashwin 6-3-19-1.

Jaiswal, Jadeja jazz up Bazball

Rahul on track for Ranchi

KL Rahul missed the Vizag Test due to quadriceps injury and was not able to make it in time for Rajkot. However, after the third Test, captain Rohit Sharma affirmed that the senior batter "should be okay" for the fourth Test against England, scheduled to be played in Ranchi from February 23.

Mumbai duo feasts on hapless England bowlers

GOMESH S @ Rajkot

WHEN Yashasvi Jaiswal walked out to bat again on Sunday, it was after a heartbreak. Taking the long walk back to the dressing room was an incredibly disappointed Shubman Gill — who was ran out on 91. The India's No. 3 had looked solid all morning and was all set for another ton.

At this point, the scoreboard read 246/3. England still had a chance to induce a collapse and have a crack at whatever target they had in front of them. When Kuldeep got out shortly after, they smelled a chance. The lead was just over 380 — it was still less than the target England had in Vizag.

That is when one Mumbaikar, Sarfaraz Khan, joined another, Jaiswal, in the middle. Now, Jaiswal had already crossed his hundred and Sarfaraz had perhaps missed his in the first innings. Here, with the stage set, the duo turned Niranjan Shah Stadium into Azad Maidan. Together, they unleashed hell on English bowlers so much that not a single move of Ben Stokes was working. He would have an in and out leg side field, hoping that there would be a mishit against spinners, but Sarfaraz would flick Rehan Ahmed in the gap while Jaiswal brutally swept Joe Root to the boundary.

The post-lunch session became a blur of sorts as Jaiswal continued his onslaught after crossing the 150-run mark. The carnage in the post lunch session from the two Mumbai lads was such that it seemed like they were taking on some school team in a Harris Shield match. What it also was a teaser for what's to come in India's Test middle-order. For the two Mumbaikars are here to stay.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

YOUNGEST TO SCORE TWO TEST 200s

Age at start of the match	Player
21y 54d	Vinod Kambli
21y 318d	Don Bradman
22y 49d	Yashasvi Jaiswal
22y 173d	Graeme Smith

FULTON REFLECTS ON INDIA JOB SO FAR

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Rourkela

THE week Craig Fulton officially took charge of the men's team, he got down to the business of learning about the demographics of the squad. No topic was left uncovered as the South African wanted to learn about their caste, where they came from and the languages (down to their dialects) they speak. On a very warm afternoon inside the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, Fulton, who will complete one year in the job next month, spoke about that episode, the cultural differences between India and the other places he has managed in and why India are not the best side in the world but can be. Excerpts:-

Q&A

● On your takeaways in terms of culture

A week after I arrived, we did an informal session. I wanted to find out the players' individual stories. So, we put up a map and they showed where they came from. We then started to connect, you have completely different environments... isolated pockets and then a big block in the middle where a majority of the players come from but the language and the dialects are different. I didn't have an understanding of who comes from where and what the influences are in those areas. Including the caste system as well, getting a sense of what that resembles and does that work internally. It was fact-finding.

● On what he found

It's so vast and it could be a strength. Because if you know everything is a Blue Society and it's all run by rules and regulations, they are going to stick with it. But in India, I don't always see that being the case. So you bring that down to style of play or the composure and chaos. That's how India works in a way, from a neutral standpoint.

● On bringing in control to the style of play

So, if we had an empty stadium, and we played that game (Australia where they lost 4-6 last week), I think we'd have a different result. In the sense of what happens to the players, what's expected of them, what is the next emotional decision they make because we are trying to play harder, faster. And what happens to the expectations when we get into the opponent's half? It goes through the roof. That's why it's such a beautiful spectacle. But at the same time, if you're out of control in that space and another team works on that, how does it help you? Nothing to take away from the players and the passion of the fans.

Full interview: newindianexpress.com

Hojlund makes history as United hold off Luton

AGENCIES @ Luton

RASMUS Hojlund made Premier League history as the Manchester United striker's double ensured his side survived a scare from lowly Luton in their 2-1 win on Sunday.

Hojlund became the youngest player to score in six consecutive Premier League games after netting twice in the first seven minutes at Kenilworth Road. At 21 years 14 days old, Hojlund surpassed Newcastle midfielder Joe Willock's previous record set when he was 21 years 272 days old. Ruud van Nistelrooy scored in 10 successive United top-flight outings in 2003 before Leicester's Jamie Vardy beat his Premier league record with 11 in a row in 2015.

Earlier, Brighton thrashed Sheffield United 5-0 at Bramall Lane. Late on Saturday, Manchester were held 1-1 by Chelsea at Etihad Stadium.

Barcelona snatch victory

BARCELONA: Robert Lewandowski snatched champions Barcelona an unconvincing 2-1 win over lowly Celta Vigo with a brace to leave them third in La Liga late on Saturday.

TN inch closer to Ranji quarters

ENS/AGENCIES @ Chennai

AFTER bowling out Punjab for 274, Tamil Nadu, who posted 435 in their first essay, enforced follow up before reducing their opponents to 180/4 on Day 3 of their Elite Group C Ranji Trophy clash in Salem on Sunday.

TN have 22 points and if the match ends in a draw the hosts will have 25 points, same as Gujarat, but they can go through to knockouts by virtue of two bonus points. If they win, then they can have 28 points. In both scenarios, they will finish as top two sides in the group.

Karnataka in command

Sharath Srinivas and Vysakh Vijaykumar hit a ton as Karnataka eye an outright win against Chandigarh on Day 3 of their Group C match in Hubballi. The hosts declared their first innings at 563/5. It gave them a lead of 296 runs. Chandigarh were 61 for no loss after day's play. As things stand now, Karnataka can finish the group engagements with 27 points by virtue of their first innings lead. But an outright win, if it is by innings, will swell their tally to 31.

SELECT SCORES

Group B: At Vizianagaram: Andhra 272 & 19/1 in 7 ovs vs Kerala 514/7 decl (Chandran 184, Baby 113; Golamru 4/161). **Group C:** At Hubli: Chandigarh: 267 & 61/0 in 11 ovs vs Karnataka 563/5 decl (Pandey 148, Srinivas 100 n.o, Vijaykumar 103 n.o; Kaila 3/143). At Salem: Tamil Nadu 435 vs Punjab 274 & 180/4 (f/o) in 40 ovs (Wadhera 103 batting; Ajith Ram 3/42). **Group D:** At New Delhi: Odisha 440 vs Delhi 451 in 130.3 ovs (Vats 66, Dhull 112, Jonty Sidhu 105 n.o; Mohapatra 3/63). At Puducherry: HP 463 bt Pondicherry 202 & 198 (f/o) in 43.3 ovs.

Kerala secure 1st innings lead

Skipper Sachin Baby and Akshay Chandran scored a century each as Kerala declared their innings at 514/7 in their Group B match against Andhra in Vizianagaram. Andhra, who posted 272 in their first innings, were 19/1 at stumps.

ISL: Vikram's brace helps Mumbai sink Bengaluru

AGENCIES @ Mumbai

MUMBAI City FC rode on a brace by Vikram Partap Singh to beat Bengaluru FC by 2-0 and secure a league double over the Blues in the ISL here on Sunday. Overcoming a run of indifferent form earlier, the Islanders are now level on points with FC Goa (28), and are placed fourth in the standings because of having played an extra game (14) than the Gaurs (13).

Vikram Pratap Singh | ISL

Vikram broke the deadlock in the 42nd minute, but Bengaluru FC talisman Sunil Chhetri had a chance to do that five minutes earlier when his headed effort off a delivery by Chinglensana Singh missed the target by a whisker.

However, Vikram's opener had its fair share of drama around it, with Chhetri possibly fouling Lalengmawia Ralte before the midfielder laid out a pass to Lallianzuala Chhangte on the inside channel of the right flank.

What draws Indian test-takers to the TOEFL iBT? How has the exam changed over the years? Which countries accept TOEFL scores? Here are all these questions, answered

Taking a look at the TOEFL iBT

THE Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is one of the most popular standardised tests in the world. More than 30 million people all over the world take the test due to its wide acceptability.

Scores of this English language test are most commonly used to seek admissions, visas, scholarships, and immigration to countries like the USA, the UK, Canada, Germany, Singapore, and more.

Recently, TOEFL was approved by the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for use in Canada's Student Direct Stream (SDS) – highlighting the growing popularity of the test and making it a crucial choice for students aspiring to pursue education abroad.

Currently, TOEFL is offered as an internet-based exam, called the TOEFL iBT. To understand the test better, *EdexLive* speaks to **Sachin Jain, Country Manager, ETS India and South Asia**, the organisation that conducts the TOEFL iBT.

Here are a few excerpts:

1 What percentage of students from India typically take the TOEFL iBT?

In recent years, there has been a notable increase in the number of Indian students taking the TOEFL iBT exam. In FY21, the number of Indian test takers grew by 53% compared to the previous year.

This trend continued in 2022, with an increase of 63% year-over-year. These figures highlight a growing preference for the TOEFL iBT among Indian students, likely due to its wide acceptance in English-speaking countries and importance for those seeking international education.

The rising numbers reflect the increasing aspirations of Indian students to study abroad and the key role of the TOEFL iBT in their academic plans.

2 What are the rules and regulations regarding the TOEFL iBT exam? How many times is a student allowed to take the test, and are there any specific timeframes for retakes?

The TOEFL iBT test offers flexible scheduling options to accommodate students' needs.

For those opting for the Home Edition, the test can be taken at any time of the day, providing convenience and comfort.

Additionally, the test is available multiple times throughout the month at authorised test centres, ensuring ample opportunities for students to choose a slot that suits their schedule.

Students are free to retake the TOEFL iBT test as many times as they wish, with the only requirement being a three-day gap between attempts. This flexibility is ideal for those aiming to enhance their scores or to fulfil specific requirements for universities or immigration.

It's vital to note that if you have an upcoming test appointment, you cannot register for another test if it falls within three days of your existing appointment. This rule holds even if you have previously cancelled your scores from an earlier test.

Sachin Jain, Country Manager, ETS India and South Asia

TOEFL IBT WHAT YOU GET

A component-wise breakdown of the test

When you appear for the TOEFL iBT, the following abilities are tested:

Reading: Assesses the ability to understand English academic texts

Listening: Focuses on understanding spoken English as used in higher education environments

Speaking: Involves tasks that test the ability to speak English in an academic context

Writing: Comprises two tasks aimed at evaluating the ability to write in English, suitable for college and university coursework

The TOEFL test is available in multiple formats, catering to different needs and preferences, including

- TOEFL iBT at a test centre: Conducted on computers at designated test centres in India
- TOEFL iBT Home Edition: Taken on a computer at home, monitored by a human proctor and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology

3 What does the TOEFL iBT test cover and how can learners take the test?

The TOEFL iBT test comprehensively evaluates English communication skills by integrating four key language areas: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing.

The Speaking and Writing sections of the test are designed to reflect real-world academic experiences in an approachable manner. In these sections, you'll engage in integrated tasks that involve combining information from different sources.

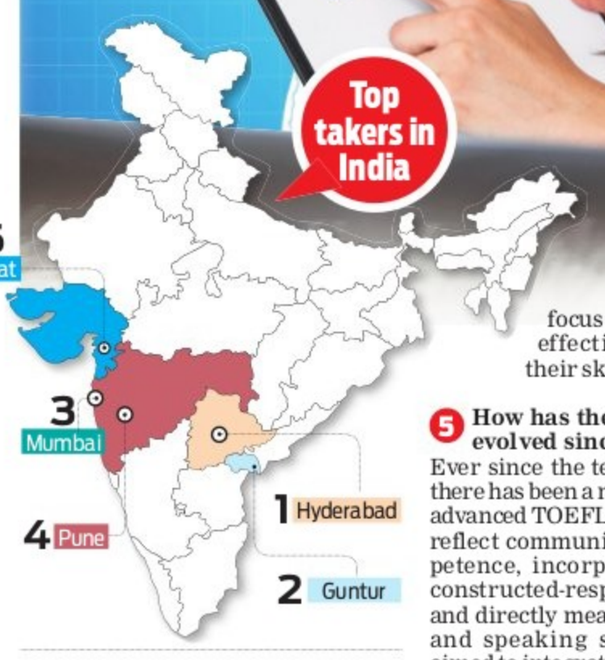
For example, you might read a passage and listen to a lecture, followed by delivering a response either orally or in writing. This method makes the test more interactive and aligns with typical academic activities.

To ensure a fair and unbiased evaluation, your responses in these sections are assessed through a system of multiple ratings, providing a well-rounded view of your abilities.

4 Generally, what aspect of the TOEFL iBT exam presents the most challenges for Indian students? Are there recommended strategies for overcoming these challenges?

The TOEFL iBT is now the shortest and most widely recognised English language proficiency test among popular options. With effective preparation, test takers can attain their desired scores. The recommended preparation duration and the test's most demanding section vary depending on factors like a person's language skills. Typically, it's advisable to dedicate a minimum of four to eight weeks for preparation, but this timeframe may differ based on individual circumstances.

Test takers should start by evaluating their current English proficiency and setting a goal score that meets the requirements of their chosen university. Additionally, personal factors like learning speed, existing commitments, and daily routines should be factored in to determine how much time can be devoted to preparing for the TOEFL iBT.



WHERE IS THE TOEFL IBT MOST POPULAR IN INDIA? These Indian cities saw the most number of TOEFL iBT takers

It's also crucial for candidates to acquaint themselves with the TOEFL iBT format. Utilising resources and practice tests available on the official website is highly beneficial. These materials help identify areas needing improvement, enabling candidates to focus their practice time effectively and enhance their skills.

5 How has the TOEFL exam evolved since its inception?

Ever since the test was introduced, there has been a need for a more advanced TOEFL test to better reflect communicative competence, incorporate more constructed-response tasks, and directly measure writing and speaking skills. It also aimed to integrate different language modalities and provide a clearer assessment of international students' ability to use English in academic settings, compared to the paper-based TOEFL (TOEFL PBT). Today, there is a TOEFL Family of Assessments which provides English-language tests for every step of a learner's journey, starting at age eight plus.

Over the last few years, the TOEFL iBT test has undergone significant enhancements. Most recently, the duration of the test has been reduced to under two hours, streamlining it from the previous three-hour format. Other notable features include predictive scores for the Listening and Reading sections immediately upon test completion, and the introduction of the MyBest Scores feature, which compiles your highest scores from each section across all attempts, showcasing your best overall performance.

lesson learnt

6 During which period do a majority of Indian students typically opt to take the TOEFL iBT test?

Indian students typically choose when to take the TOEFL iBT test based on their preferences and the application deadlines of their chosen universities and programmes. As these deadlines vary across different universities and academic terms, there is no set period for taking the TOEFL iBT.

Money roundup: How much does taking the TOEFL iBT cost?

A look at the examination fees of various modes of the TOEFL in India and other countries

TOEFL iBT test format	TOEFL iBT test fee in Indian Rupees
TOEFL iBT Exam Fee	INR 16,900
TOEFL iBT at Home Exam Fee	INR 16,900

THE TOP TAKERS!

These countries are among the top choices of Indian students to send their TOEFL iBT scores to:

- USA
- Canada
- Germany
- UK
- Netherlands
- Singapore
- Australia
- France
- Sweden

TOEFL IBT EXAM FEE IN INDIAN RUPEES

Preparing right – practice material to help

What resources aid the preparation for TOEFL iBT the best?

Here are a few ETS-authorised preparation materials available for students to prepare for the TOEFL iBT. Each of these resources is designed for different aspects of the TOEFL iBT preparation, ensuring that test takers are well-equipped for the exam:

TOEFL IBT FREE PRACTICE TEST: This resource offers a way to assess readiness with actual test questions and sample responses, giving test takers a real feel of the exam

OFFICIAL TOEFL IBT PREP COURSE: A self-paced, six-month subscription course that improves English communication skills via lessons and activities. It includes pre-tests and post-tests to track progress

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO THE TOEFL IBT TEST: Available in both eBook and paperback formats, this guide includes four full-length practice tests, essential tips, and sample questions for a comprehensive preparation experience

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*TO AVAIL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLY ON OR BEFORE 19TH FEB 2024

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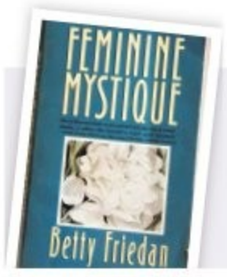
MONDAY



DAY'S DIARY

Betty Friedan's book

The Feminine Mystique, a book by Betty Friedan, was published on this day in 1963. It was a sparking for second-wave feminism in the US

RESEARCH TO BOOK

In 1957, Friedan conducted a survey on her classmates. The results showed that many were unhappy with their lives as housewives. This prompted her to begin research for the book

BOOK'S INSPIRATION

Friedan argued that when men returned home after the war, women—who filled in the jobs men left—were expected to return home and perform feminine activities

AUTHOR INSIGHT

Friedan, in her estimation, said that education had less to do with reinforcing the feminine mystique than with the outright emancipation of women

Xpress Highway: The latest in the world of automobiles

PG 3

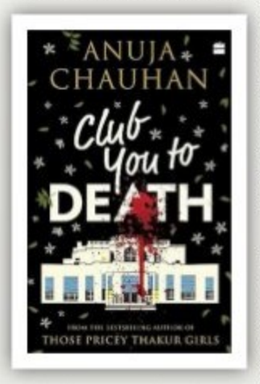
'...MY READERS MANIFESTED THE CASTING'

City-based author Anuja Chauhan's book-turned-movie adaptation of *Club You To Death*, starring Pankaj Tripathi, Karisma Kapoor, Dimple Kapadia, and Sara Ali Khan, will be out next month, the buzz around which has already caught on

POOJA DAS

WHETHER set against the backdrop of a quaint village or the bustling streets of a metropolis, the allure of a whodunnit lies in its ability to challenge perceptions and leave audiences to do some thinking. Bengaluru-based Anuja Chauhan's book *Club You to Death*, a murder mystery set in an elite Delhi club, is one such whodunnit. Now, the classic mystery has been adapted for OTT as *Murder Mubarak*. Starring names like Pankaj Tripathi, Karisma Kapoor, Dimple Kapadia, and Sara Ali Khan, the film will release next month. "Homi [Adajania] has brought the club culture alive so vividly – they shot in Delhi, at a Lutyens-era star hotel – and it looks perfect. Then there are the characters, who are a motley bunch, but they've been cast and directed so well," says Chauhan.

Being her first whodunnit which released in 2021, her inspiration behind the crime fiction came from a 'question of not if, but when'. "I've always loved whodunnits, which are also always a whydunnit. The psychological delving into the minds of characters gets me excited. With five rom-coms under my belt, I was feeling the need for a change in flavour, and honestly, being cooped up at home during the lockdown made me want to murder people," she says quite candidly.



Talking about the screenplay, Chauhan says, "Suprotim Sengupta and Gazal Dhaliwal shared the screenplay and asked for my feedback. Then Maddock Films (Sharada Karki and Dinesh Vijan) invited me to see the film last October. It was Work in Progress back then."

While the transition from book to film necessitated condensing the story, Chauhan insists that the essence of the book remains intact. "Suprotim, Gazal, and Homi have added some wicked touches to the screenplay, which are different from the book, so even people who've read it will still find it enjoyable," she shares.

The plot, set on the premises of Delhi Turf Club, which is soon to hold an election for its President, is thrown into disarray with the discovery of a body. As a range of suspects is introduced, ACP Bhavani Singh is assigned to the case to solve the mystery. The casting of Tripathi as the mild-mannered ACP has created the most buzz amongst fans. "He's such a fine actor, and so many readers have written to me saying that when they read the book, they imagined him as ACP Bhavani. So I think my readers pretty much manifested the casting," shares Chauhan, adding, "I'm hoping the most fulfilling part of this experience is yet to come! Which is that people love ACP Bhavani, the homely old UP wallah policeman with a sympathetic ear - and that I can keep writing about him and his wife Shalini for a long time to come. Shalini didn't make it to the film and that broke my heart a little."

There's much to look forward to for Chauhan whose other novel *Baaz* – set against the backdrop of the Bangladesh War of 1971 – has been bought by Dharma Productions. "*Baaz* needs a fresh young casting. He [Ishaan Faujdar] is 24 years old and it's essential for him to have that quality of being heart-breakingly young."

A still from the teaser

WAH-WAH!

Renowned tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain, who recently won three Grammy awards, enthralls the audience with his performance during the Udupa Music Festival at Chowdiah Memorial Hall on Friday | RABINANDAN

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress @gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday.

The first prize winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,000 from Absolute Barbecues**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1)Surti Papdi
2) Gazpacho
3) Hünkar Begendi

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Anushka
2) Aurora
3) Thulasi Rao

XPRESS FOCUS SMD INITIATIVE

Sri Vidya Public High School

Nurturing Minds, Cultivating Futures

'Education, akin to a flourishing tree, thrives on a symbiotic relationship: students as the budding promise, teachers as the nurturing leaves, and knowledge as the expansive branches. Only with the sustenance of proper guidance from branches to leaves do these buds unfurl into resplendent blooms of understanding.'

Nestled amidst the serene environs of Vishwaneedam Post, Tunganagar—Sri Vidya Public High School stands as a symbol of modern education, boasting state-of-the-art classrooms tailored to foster scientific acumen. It is a bastion where students are not just educated but also imbued with mental fortitude and spiritual depth, transforming them into conscientious citizens with an unwavering commitment to patriotism.

Upholding the ethos of inclusivity, its Chief Secretary, Venkatarangaiah, envisions extending modern education to every stratum of society, transcending barriers of caste, religion, and economic status.

Inaugurated under the auspices of Sri Shivakumara Swamiji, the school is blessed with the vision to sculpt a skilled and exemplary generation. "Emphasising holistic development, we place a premium on physical education, nurturing robust health and resilience among its wards. Sports are not merely extracurricular activities but avenues for instilling discipline, confidence, and perseverance," said Venkatarangaiah.

> Emphasising holistic development, we place a premium on physical education, nurturing robust health and resilience among its wards. Sports are not merely extracurricular activities but avenues for instilling discipline, confidence, and perseverance.
>
> **- Venkatarangaiah**
> **Chief Secretary,**
> **Sri Vidya Public High School**

Yoga, a cornerstone of the curriculum, serves as a conduit for mental rejuvenation and fortification, providing students with invaluable inner strength. Complementing this, the school's well-equipped laboratories empower children to bridge theory with practice, while its extensive library cultivates a culture of avid reading, augmenting their intellectual horizons.

Sri Vidya Public High School champions a holistic approach to education, offering a diverse array of extracurricular programs including Yoga, Karate, Abacus, and Sports, fostering well-rounded development.

Guided by a cadre of astute leaders, including the erudite Principal and Directors, the school is resolute in its pursuit of excellence and visionary goals. It stands as a testament to the power of education, shaping not only young minds but also the trajectory of society's future.

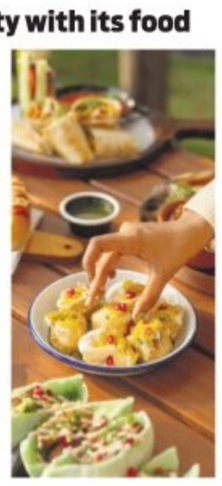
CITY READ

Salon opens new branch in city

Cut&Style Salon's newest branch blends contemporary design with the city's rich cultural tapestry. At the Vijaya Bank outlet, choose from a variety of services, including pedicure, manicure, hair spa, styling, haircuts, head massage, premium facial, and hair colour. Inspired by Bengaluru's ethos of diversity, the salon's interiors reflect a fusion of modern elegance and traditional charm. To book your appointment, call 70902 20099.

Celebrate Chowpatty with its food

This February, as the Cherry Blossoms bloom, bid farewell to the season of love and embrace the warmth of Bengaluru's summer with Chowpatty by the pool, a culinary pop-up at Hyatt Centric MG Road. Discover the flavours, from the spicy chanachor garam, tangy vadapav, mirchi pad, and much more. This will be held till February 29, between 5pm to 10.30pm. For more information, call: 95915 10193

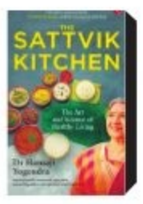


BOOK NOOK

Spiritual Anatomy: Meditation, Chakras, and the Journey to the Center

by Kamlesh D Patel

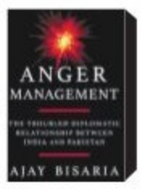
The book takes us on a journey to the center of our consciousness.



The Sattvik Kitchen: The Art and Science of Healthy Living

By Dr Hansaji Yogendra

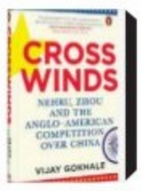
An internationally renowned yoga and wellness guru reveals the transformative potential of food — not just the food but also the timing, quantity, and manner of consumption.



Anger Management: The Troubled Diplomatic Relationship between India and Pakistan

By Ajay Bisaria

The book looks in eye-opening detail at all these incidents that took place while the author was India's top diplomat in Pakistan.



Crosswinds: Nehru, Zhou and The Anglo-American Competition over China

By Vijay Gokhale

The book is a deep-dive into how India crafted its China policy in the first decade after independence.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Theatre Time

Embark on a timeless journey through love, science, and comedy in *Love in the Cholera of Time*, where two hearts defy the boundaries of eras, risking the very fabric of time itself. Watch this hilarious yet poignant battle between love and the relentless march of time.

WHEN: Feb 21, 7.30pm
WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Divine Melodies

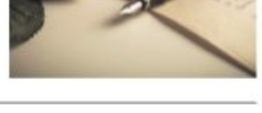
Experience the magic of Kashi Svara Shankara Music Festival for a captivating journey through nine concerts, featuring renowned artistes like Ranjani-Gayatri and Mahesh Kale, paying tribute to saint-poets, musical maestros.

WHEN: Feb 22-25, 4.45pm onwards
WHERE: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Oral Traditions

Watch ArtMantram's presentation of *Sita*, a monodrama in Hindi by **Anchan Chandak** as part of the Karnataka Kalotsav 2024. Experience the diverse facets of Sita's character and her journey in a unique storytelling format.

WHEN: Feb 19, 6pm
WHERE: Level 6, Above Church Street SOCIAL, Ashok Nagar
DETAILS: 9740954366



Resilient Hope

Join author **Indrajit Roy** for a talk about his book *Audacious Hope*, documenting grassroots resistance in India, including farmer protests and cultural activism. Explore how collective action can combat authoritarianism, casteism, and majoritarianism, fostering the audacity of hope.

WHEN: Feb 19, 6.30pm
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Celebrating Verses

Explore your creative side while attending this gathering of poets, musicians and storytellers to perform a piece of your choice.

WHEN: Feb 19, 7pm
WHERE: SmallWorld, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Style Statement

Begin the new season with fresh collections at this fashion and luxury exhibition, including a new range of designer wear, jewellery, bridal wear, fashion accessories and much more.

WHEN: Feb 19, 10 am onwards
WHERE: The Lalit Ashok, Bangalore, Kumarakrupa Rd
DETAILS: 08068177777

Comedy Night

Join standup comic **Kjeld Sreshth** for his standup solo Cooking Something Funny, a slice-of-life comedy show. Experience life's quirks with all its expectations and anxieties with Kelt's unique perspectives.

WHEN: Feb 19, 9.30pm
WHERE: Ministry of Comedy, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

CREATIVE PANORAMA

Artist Shinjini Bhattacharjee showcases her art at the fourth edition of Art Bengaluru Collective on Sunday at the Rangoli Metro Art Centre | ALLEN EGENUSE J

QUICK FIX

CHEKKALU

Contributed by **Surya**, Thiruvarur

INGREDIENTS

- **Rice flour:** 1 cup
- **Cumin seeds:** 1 tsp
- **Melted ghee or hot oil:** 2 tbsp
- **Red chilli powder:** 1 tsp
- **Water as needed**
- **Peanuts (coarsely crushed):** 2 tbsp **(optional)**
- **Roasted gram flour (optional):** 2 tbsp
- **Split black gram (roasted and powdered):** 2 tbsp
- **Sesame seeds:** 2 tbsp
- **Asafoetida:** A pinch
- **Oil:** 1 tbsp
- **Salt to taste**
- **Oil for deep frying**

METHOD

- In a mixing bowl, combine the ingredients. Add melted ghee or hot oil and mix well.
- Knead the mixture into a firm dough, similar to chapati dough.
- Heat oil in a deep frying pan over medium heat.
- Divide the dough into small balls and flatten them into thin discs on a greased plastic sheet or banana leaf.
- Fry the Chekkalu until golden brown and crispy.
- Once done, remove the Chekkalu from the oil and store in an airtight container.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

DANDASANA FINGERTIPS POINTING TO HEELS

(STAFF POSE FINGERTIPS POINTING TO HEELS)

This is a variation with base pose as Dandasana (Staff Pose). Often this pose is considered as a warm-up to prepare the body to perform difficult poses and also used or practiced for relaxing the leg muscles and the hips after an intense practice session.

STEPS

- Sit on a mat with your legs stretched.
- Keep the spine and neck erect, legs together and feet gently touching each other.
- Bring your hands behind you, leaning back into it with a straight spine, fingertips pointing to the heels.
- Lift your chest and open the shoulders.
- Keep the arms straight, look upward and breath.
- Don't have to bend back a lot.
- Hold this pose from 20 seconds to a minute depending on how long you could hold the pose.
- Finally, relax.

BENEFITS

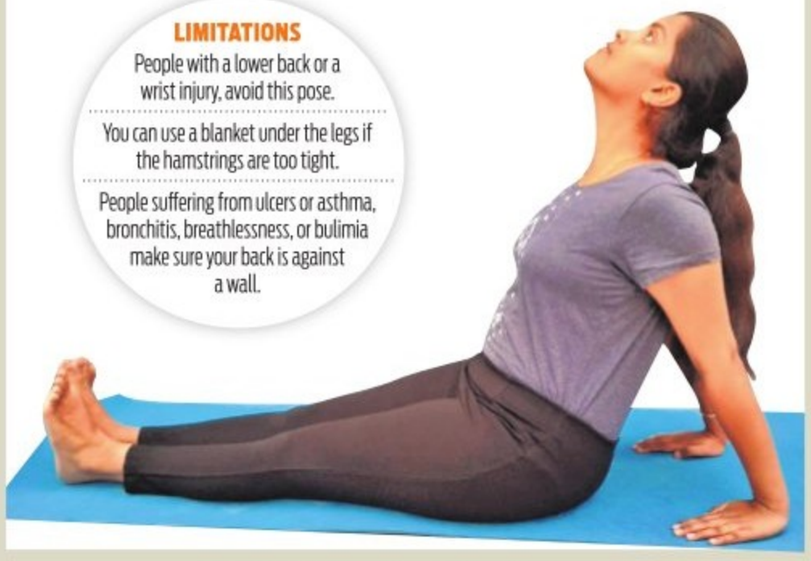
- Aids improve your posture.
- Strengthens back muscles.
- Stretches the spine, shoulders and chest.
- Nourishes the body's resistance to back and hip injuries.
- Helps calm brain cells.
- May improve functionality of the digestive organs.
- It helps to create body awareness.
- Improves body alignment.

LIMITATIONS

People with a lower back or a wrist injury, avoid this pose.

You can use a blanket under the legs if the hamstrings are too tight.

People suffering from ulcers or asthma, bronchitis, breathlessness, or bulimia make sure your back is against a wall.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

SWATHI MUTTHINA MALE HANIYE (Kannada)

A hospice counsellor, Prerana, finds a new meaning in her life when she befriends Aniketh, a terminally ill patient. Their bond challenges the conventional notions of love, life and humanity.

Cast: Arpith Adyar, Sandhya Arakere, Asha

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

SALAAR (Tamil)

The fate of a violently contested kingdom hangs on the fraught bond between two friends-turned-foes in this saga of power, bloodshed and betrayal.

Cast: Prabhas, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruti Haasan

- **Watch on:** Netflix

PIPPA (Hindi)

A young Indian Army captain from the 45 Cavalry regiment commanding the amphibious PT-76 war tank comes of age as he and his two siblings fight to liberate Bangladesh in the Indo-Pakistani war of 1971.

Cast: Ishaan Khattar, Mrunal Thakur, Priyanshu Painyuli

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

AYALAAN (Tamil)

A lost alien seeks help from four friends to get back to his home planet, while a group of hostile scientists tries to capture it.

Cast: Sivakarthikeyan, Rakul Preet Singh, Karunakaran

- **Watch on:** Sun NXT

ANTONY (Malayalam)

An emotionally charged mass family entertainer that delves into the profound theme of relationships that run deeper than blood. The story revolves around the enigmatic character, Antony and his close-knit group of friends.

Cast: Joju George, Chemban Vinod Jose, Kalyani Priyadarshan

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

CONJURING KANNAPPAN (Tamil)

A man begins to have nightmares where he experiences things in sleep that affect him in real life, too. But as his derangement spreads across his family and friends, they decide to go to the root of the cause.

Cast: Sathish, Regina Cassandra, Nassar

- **Watch on:** Netflix

UDAL (Malayalam)

Shiny is looking after her bedridden mother-in-law, living along with her father-in-law Kuttichan. Tensions arise pushing Shiny to the point where she cannot take anymore.

Cast: Indrans, Dhyan Sreenivasan, Durga Krishna

- **Watch on:** Saina Play

FOREIGN

DEATH AND OTHER DETAILS (English, series)

Detective Rufus Cotesworth and his protégé, Imogene, dig for the truth on a Mediterranean ocean liner where everyone is hiding something.

Cast: Violett Beane, Mandy Patinkin, Pardis Saremi

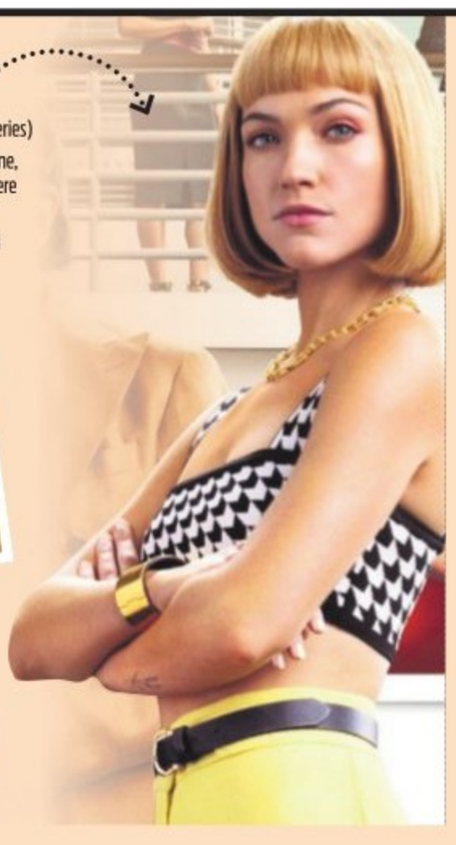
- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

GRISELDA (English, series)

The savvy and ambitious Colombian businesswomen Griselda Blanco creates one of the most profitable cartels in history.

Cast: Sofía Vergara, Alberto Guerra, Juliana Aidén Martinez

- **Watch on:** Netflix



TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: MUTANT MAYHEM (English)

After years of being sheltered from the human world, the Turtle brothers set out to win the hearts of New Yorkers and be accepted as normal teenagers.

Cast: Micah Abbey, Shamon Brown Jr., Nicolas Cantu

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

ALEXANDER: THE MAKING OF A GOD (English, docuseries)

A look at the life of Alexander the Great and his burning desire to conquer the world.

Cast: Buck Braithwaite, Mido Hamada, Nada El Belkasmi

- **Watch on:** Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix:	₹ 199/month
Prime Video:	₹ 299/month
Jio Cinema:	₹ 999/year
Disney+ Hotstar:	₹ 899/year
Zee5:	₹ 699/year
Viki Rakuten:	₹ 299/month
Aha:	₹ 699/year
SonyLIV:	₹ 299/month

LIKE A POEM

Kia has given a facelift to its compact SUV Sonet. The new model has entered the Indian market with some interesting specs

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

THE DRIVE

I got to drive the turbo petrol automatic. It is a smooth rider, with good power delivery and a responsive gearbox. We can shift gears via paddle shifters too. The average mileage shown on the screen, even when I drove along narrow alleys, was above 10 kmpl.

WHEN it was launched way back in 2020, the Kia Sonet easily entered the hearts of Indian motorheads with its compact and cute design. It has been a trendy car from Kia India since then, a meteoric rise and a fan favourite. Now the automaker has given Sonet a thorough makeover. And not just a cosmetic touch but the new model comes with some autonomous systems to ease driving and offer more safety. Recently, on the picturesque roads of Bhopal, I got an opportunity to sit behind the wheel of this beauty. Let me share what I noticed.

The looks

Kia has retained Sonet's upright body. Why mess up something that works, right?

The cosmetic changes that are easily noticeable are on the front bumper-grille-lamps area. Crown jewel LED headlamps, star map LED DRLs, sleek LED fog lamps, new bumper design... It's an attractive slew of new designs.

Some distinctive design changes deserve special mention. LED-connected tail lamps and body colour rear spoiler are new additions in the back while the alloy wheel design adds freshness to the side profile.

What's inside

The tech-oriented dashboard, a host of convenience features and plush materials invite us to the cabin. A panel design of a full digital cluster with dual screens, a 10.25-inch colour LCD instrument cluster and a 10.25-inch HD touchscreen of the infotainment system is the main point of attraction. All these are in the Seltos-standard now, meaning one-segment-above features.

There are five interior colour options in line with the variant distinctions. Four-way power driver's seat, ventilated front seats, air purifier, ambient lighting, BOSE Premium 7 speaker system, rear door sunshade curtain, 60:40 seatback split-fold seats, etc, are some other features.

Safety features

A 360-degree camera with a blind view monitor is provided in the cluster along with a camera-based LEVEL-1 ADAS (Advanced Driver Assist Systems). These are the most important technical additions to the new Sonet. Forward collision warning and braking, lane departure alert, lane keep assist and front vehicle departure alert, high beam assist and driver attention warning are very useful features of the ADAS. Again, for safety, all disc brakes, front parking sensors, six airbags, and hill assist are all there.

Engine-gearbox options

Kia continues all three engine options. 83hp, 1.2-litre petrol engine + 5-speed manual gearbox is the lowest grade 120hp, 1-litre turbo petrol + 6-speed clutchless manual gear/7-speed dual clutch automatic 115hp, 1.5litre turbo diesel + 6-speed manual/ clutchless manual/ torque converter automatic.

When Sonet was launched in 2020, a diesel manual was present, but later it was withdrawn. However, now it comes back to attract more buyers with its comparatively lower price.

Price

The new Sonet offers a diverse range of driving experiences with its availability in 19 different variants, including the 5 diesel manual variants starting from ₹9.79 lakh. Diesel 6MT variants range between ₹9.79 and ₹13.69 lakh. ADAS Level 1, featuring 10 autonomous functions, is accessible in the top-of-the-line variants for both diesel and petrol engines. The GT Line and X-Line variants in petrol costs ₹14.50 lakh and ₹14.69 lakh and the diesel costs ₹15.50 and ₹15.69 lakh, respectively.

Kia has also re-introduced Manual Transmission to all the variants with Diesel powertrain. With this reintroduction, Sonet now comes with:

- 5MT in HTE, HTK and HTK+variants with Smartstream G1.2 engine
- 6MT in all Diesel variants 6iMT in both Petrol and Diesel variants
- 7DCT in Petrol variants, and 6AT in Diesel Variants.

Verdict

Sonet offers good comfort, especially in the front row. Back seats are improved with more thigh support and knee room. The model presents suitable variants to anyone who is looking for a compact SUV.

XPRESS HIGHWAY

FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

NEW RELEASES

CHARISMA OF EVOQUE

The JLR India has officially launched the new and enhanced Range Rover Evoque in India. The New Range Rover Evoque has a charismatic, sophisticated character, with its reductive design now enhanced with the latest technologies and luxurious material choices for modern luxury clients. The New Range Rover Evoque is available in Dynamic SE with two powertrain options — the 2.0 l petrol engine delivering a power of 184 kW and 365 Nm torque and a 2.0 l Ingenium diesel engine delivering a power of 150 kW and 430 Nm torque. It features subtle evolution in exterior design, with a coupe-like silhouette, floating roof, continuous waistline and flush deployable door handles. The latest family grille design now provides a unified look across the Range Rover brand. The model is available to order now and priced at ₹67.90 lakh.

A WHOLE LOTTA LUXURY

Mercedes-Benz India has launched two new luxury SUVs — the new GLA SUV and the performance-oriented AMG GLE 53 4MATIC+ Coupé. The former will be offered in three variants — GLA 200, GLA 220d 4MATIC, and GLA 220d 4MATIC AMG Line. The GLA has been significantly upgraded with new equipment like blind spot assist, 360-degree camera and KEYLESS-GO comfort package. GLA 220d 4MATIC has a 1950cc diesel engine and 8G-DCT transmission, churning 140kW of power and 400 nm of torque. Introductory prices range from GLA 200 — ₹50.50 lakh, GLA 220d 4MATIC — ₹54.75 lakh, GLA 220d 4MATIC AMG Line — ₹56.90 lakh. Along with this, the AMG GLE 53 strengthens Benz's top-end vehicle (TEV) portfolio. This new Coupe features AMG AMG-inspired inline 6-cylinder engine with twin-turbocharging and an additional electric compressor, propelling it from 0-100 in five seconds. The AMG DYNAMIC SELECT intelligently modifies the driving experience by adjusting the steering and torque distribution through the all-wheel-drive system and active stabilisers. AMG GLE 53 4MATIC is priced starting at ₹1.85 crore and can be customised with 7,000+ combinations with prices going up to ₹2.2 crore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUSAI MARIAMMMA** aged about 74 years w/o Late.AROGYA SWAMY resides at No.374, NEAR St Maical School, Kogilu Layout, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560064, I declare that my Husband (Late.) **AROGYA SWAMY's** Death Certificate, my name is mentioned as **SUSA MARY,** below mentioned both names **SUSAI MARIAMMMA** and **SUSA MARY** are one and the same person. Future all correspondent will be done in the name of **SUSAI MARIAMMMA.**, vide affidavit dated 17/2/2024 sworn to before S.R.Ravikumar advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) LAKSHMI KENCHEGOWDA Residing at No. W/o Ashwin D Gowda No. 40, N Kodihalli, Halaguru Hobli, Malavalli, Nitthur Kodihalli, Mandya - 571421. Have changed My Name from **(OLD NAME) LAKSHMI KENCHEGOWDA** to **(NEW NAME) LAKSHMI ASHWINGOWDA** Vide Affidavit Dated 16.02.2024 Sworn before Notary K C Shashikala Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **(OLD NAME) ISMAIL MAHAMADABBAS BALLARI** Residing at No. # Canara Galli, Nehru Nagar, Sirsi, Uttara Karnataka - 581402. Have changed My Name from **(OLD NAME) ISMAIL MAHAMADABBAS BALLARI** to **(NEW NAME) ISMAIL MOHAMMED ABBAS SAUDAGAR** Vide Affidavit Dated 16.02.2024 Sworn before Notary A.Manjula Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

(For Correction of Names of Parents in the Birth Cerficate of Child)

We, **Mr. GANESH P SHET,** aged about 38 years, S/o. Mr. Pandurang, and **Mrs. SHEETAL VISHRAM REVANKAR,** aged about 37 years, W/o. Ganesh P Shet, residing at No.24, 1st Main Road, Near Sai Baba Temple, Raghavendra Enclave, Totadaguddadahalli, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru-560073, state and declare vide Affidavit Dated:16/02/2024 duly sworn to before Ramasanjeevaiah K V, Advocate and Notary, Govt., of India, Bengaluru **that our names should be corrected/rectified as "GANESH P SHET" and "SHEETAL VISHRAM REVANKAR" in the Name of Mother (5) and Name of Father (6) Columns respectively in the Birth Certificate of our Daughter "AVNI GANESH SHET" bearing Registration No.2013-B-1185/Dtd:07/08/2013 issued by Registrar of Births and Deaths, CMC, Karwar.**

CHANGE OF NAME

Know all men by this, I, RAVI, (Assumed Name) aged about 47 years, son of Naraseegowda @ Narasigowda, residing at No.142, 1st Main Road, 3rd Cross, K.H.B. Colony, Basaveshwaranagara, Bengaluru – 560 079., renounced and abandoned my former name "RAVEESH" (original name) in lieu thereof assumed the name RAVI vide Affidavit/ Declaration sworn before K.S. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Flat No.101, Krishnaveni Gardenia, Yellappa Garden, Banagiri Nagar, Banashankari III Stage, Bengaluru – 560 085. vide Regd. No.63, Book I, Page No.06, dated 14.02.2024. I hereby expressly authorize and request all persons in general and relatives and friends in particular to designate and address me by my assumed name RAVI and sign my name as RAVI in all records, deeds and writings and in all proceedings, dealings and transactions private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever at all times hereafter.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **(OLD NAME) ABDUL HARIK MD MAHFUJ ALOM CHOUDHURY,** R/o No. 17/2, Mottappampalaya, Indiranagar, VTC:Bengaluru-560038, have changed my name from **ABDUL HARIK MD MAHFUJ ALOM CHOUDHURY** to **(NEW NAME) MAHFUJ ALOM CHOUDHURY** vide affidavit Dated 16 Feb 2024 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHUSHMA VENKATESH MURTHY SEELAMANTULA** R/at No.2, 1st D Main, Kaveri Layout, Nagarabhavi Road, Bangalore- 560040 have changed my name to **SHUSHMA VENKATESH MURTHY** vide affidavit dated: 16/2/2024 Before Notary **M.K.Devaki** Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **S. UMARANI @ S.UMA,** Sri G. Varadareddy, aged about 47 years, R/at No. 19, 13th Cross, Ganapathipura, Konanakunte, Kanakapura Road, Bangalore-560062, do hereby declare that my names i.e. **S.UMA** and **S.UMARANI** are one and the same and both the names are belongs to me only, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **T.C. THIMMARAJA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **NIDHI .S** D/o Mr. Sudhir B.S, aged about 21 years, R/at No. 40, 46th Cross, Near Water tank, Kumarswamy Layout, 1st Stage, Bangalore South, JP Nagar, Bengaluru, do hereby declare that my correct name is **NIDHI S** but in my passport it is mentioned as **NIDHI** instead of **NIDHI S**, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S NAGARAJA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SAVITHA** W/o Rajesh .I.L, aged about 42 years, permanent resident of No.253, Madivala Bettu, Gundmi Village, Irody (Sasthana Post), Udupi, Karnataka presently residing at No. 104, 1st Floor, 3rd B Cross, East of NGEF Layout, Kasturi Nagar, Bengaluru - 560043. My name shall be hereinafter be known as it is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. My name has been changed as **SAVITHA .R.L.** In future for all the requirements and documents her name will be **SAVITHA .R.L.**, vide affidavit dated 15.02.2024, sworn to before Prakasha .C, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUHAS HEGDE** S/o. Gopalkrishna Hegde, Aged about 38 years, Residing at Benaka Residency, No. D202, 2nd Main, Attiguppe, Income Tax Layout; Bangalore-560040 have changed my name from **SUHAS GOPAL HEGDE to SUHAS HEGDE** vide Affidavit dated 17.02.2024 sworn before advocate and notary H.S. Sakalesh Aradhya, Bengaluru

AFFIDAVIT

I, POORNIMA MANJUNATH, W/o Sri. Manjunath, aged 57 years, residing at No. 5, 1st A Cross, Anubhavanagar, Near Kalyannagar Bus Stop, Moodalapalya, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560072. I declare that the names **(POORNIMA MANJUNATH / POORNIMA SATHYANARAYANA)** belongs to one and the same person, henceforth, I have decided to continue my name in future as **POORNIMA MANJUNATH** vide affidavit dated 17-02-2024, Sworn before Advocate and Notary Deepa M, Bangalore.

SMARTADS

PURVA BLUE BELLE
Adjacent to Magadi Road
Metro Station
(Purple lane) Rajajinagar
3 Bedroom Jodi units
5 Bedroom + Servant room with all Luxurious Amenities.
Direct metro from here to ITPL (white field) / KR PURAM/ BYYAPPANAHALLI .
Very good Convenience those who are working above Areas.
Only few units left for Sale.
Contact : Owner 9844027560

DNR Highline @ Okalipuram
near LULU Mall
Rajajinagar
3 & 4 BHK FLATS
with 7 Star Luxurious Amenities.
Only Few Flats available for Sale. for details
Contact : Owner 9844027560

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Aruna Kumari C M**, W/o Nagaraj residing at No 145, Bettadasanapura, Near Mariamma Temple, Begur, Bengaluru - 68 has changed my name from **ANNA KUMARI C M** to **ARUNA KUMARI C M** for all future purposes Vide Affidavit Number IN-KA237055 -95435503W dated: 07 Feb 2024 before Notary, Thippeswamy T Advocate, Bengaluru (Karnataka)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUCHIT KANTILAL DODHIA** S/o Kantilal Virpal Dodhia , aged about 29 years, R/at No. 623, 11th Main Road, 1st Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUCHIT** to **SUCHIT KANTILAL DODHIA**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **SUCHIT KANTILAL DODHIA** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 16.02.2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **L. VEENA,** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MARIYAMMA V**, W/o Late V Mataiah, aged about 66 years, R/at No. 7/40, 4th Cross, HM Road, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru-560084, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **V.M MAHALAKSHMI** to **MARIYAMMA V,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **MARIYAMMA V** only, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K. VENKATESHAN** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SUJATAMMA @ SUDHA** W/o Chandrashekar Reddy .M.V, age 44 years, R/at No. 56/4, Channappa Layout, Roopena Agrahara, Near Saibaba School, Bommanahalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560 068 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **SUJATAMMA @ SUDHA** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **SUJATAMMA @ SUDHA** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 17th Feb. 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **N. Nagappa** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **GEETHA B R**, aged about 51 years, W/o. Manjunath J S, residing at No. 523, Ramabhakta Nilaya, 1st Main, 5th Cross, S V G Nagar, Mudalapalya, Bangalore-560072, do hereby declare that in my daughter **DHANYA M S** Education records my name is entered as **SWATHI M S,** and hereby declare that **GEETHA B R** and **SWATHI M S** both the name belongs to my only and same person. Authorities consider my name as **GEETHA B R** as per my Aadhaar card & Pan Card, vide affidavit dated 17.02.2024, sworn to before C. K. Anupama, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DENNIS VARGHESE or DENNIES VARGHESE VADAKOOT, S/o Mr.Vergheese Ittiyera Vadakoot, aged about 47 years, DOB: 04-05-1976 and resident of LI-12, Villa 8, Near B M Greenwood Apartment, Doddakannalli, Sarjapura Road, Carmelaram Post Bangalore - 560035, India. have changed my name to **DENNIES VARGHEESE** vide Affidavit dated 16.02.2024 sworn before advocate and notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru

AFFIDAVIT

I, SHRILAXMI BISNALLI, D/o Sri. Shirurappa Bisanalli, aged 24 years, residing at No. 61, 1st Stage, 3rd Block, 9th Main, 4th Cross, Suvarna Layout, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore, Karnataka-560072, I declare that the names **(SHRILAXMI BISNALLI / SHRILAXMI SHIRURAPPA BISANALLI)** belongs to one and the same person, henceforth, I have decided to continue my name in future as **SHRILAXMI BISNALLI** vide affidavit dated 17-02-2024, Sworn before Advocate and Notary Deepa M, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **R. Anjanappa**, R/a Puttamma Garden, Kumbena Agrahara, Kadugodi Plantation, Kadugodi, Bangalore-560067. I have changed my name from **Anjinappa Ramaiah** to **R. ANJANAPPA**. Vide affidavit dt : 16.02.2024. Sworn before notary : D.B. Ramesh Bashkar

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GP HARINI,** legally wedded spouse of No.2783876 N, Rank: EX-NK, Name: **POONACHA K T**, presently residing at #NA-377, BEL South Colony, Jalahalli Post, Bengaluru 560013, have changed my name from **G P HARINI** to **HARINI G P**, vide Affidavit Dated: 17/02/2024, sworn before Notary **L.GOPALAKRISHNA,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DEEKSHA HOSAMANE S.** D/o Sri Shashidhara. S, aged about 24 years, R/at No. 9, Muthamma Nilaya, Papaiya Street, Doddamavalli, Bangalore-560004, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **DEEKSHA S. DEVANGA** to **DEEKSHA HOSAMANE. S**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **DEEKSHA HOSAMANE .S** only, vide affidavit dated 15/02/2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **N. SHAMSUNDER KAMBLE** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Ms. Sneha T**, D/o. Thanikachalam, Aged about 21 years, Residing at No. 17/1, 1st Cross, 14th Main Road, K.P. Agrahara, Magadi Road, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560023, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Pamdi Kuppam Sneha** to **Sneha T** vide affidavit dated 17.02.2024 sworn to before K.C. Chowde Gowda, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SYED IFTHEQARAHMED** S/o Syed Gaffar, Residing at Marur Road, Opp to Veterinary Hospital, Kudur, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District - 561101 henceforth changed my name to **SYED IFTHEQUARAHMED** henceforth my name will be **SYED IFTHEQUARAHMED** in all my record and documents vide Affidavit dated : 03/02/2024 before Notary RAJAIAH, Magadi.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SMT. ANASHWARA REMA ASHOK,** aged about 28 years, W/o. Sri. Raghunandan Malebennur Chandrashekhar, residing at: No.436, 4th Floor, Vaastu Hill View-2, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru-560098, declared that my names **ANASHWARA R ASHOK, ANASWARA ASHOK and ANASHWARA REMA ASHOK** are one and the same and thereby all the names referred above pertains to me alone. Vide affidavit dated 17-02-2024 sworn before notary S.R. Thulasikrishna, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NAGALAKSHMI DASARI** (Aadhar No.282237615315), Passport No. T3596164, Date of Birth: 28.03.1986, W/O Narasimhalu. D/o. Mr. THOGURU GOPAL, presently residing at No 79, 1st Cross, 1st Main, Near Telugu Bapist Church, Ramachandrapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka, 560013, have changed my name from **NAGALAKSHMI** to **NAGALAKSHMI DASARI,** vide affidavit dated 16/2/2024 sworn to before R.Basavaraja advocate and notary Bangalore.

ENOUGH OF PLAYING GOOD, I'M A BAD BOY NOW : DARSHAN

The Challenging Star teases about his transformation for Prakash Veer's *Devil-The Hero*

DARSHAN

CE FEATURES

The first look of actor Darshan from his upcoming film *Devil - The Hero,* was unveiled recently on the occasion of his birthday. Directed by Prakash Veer, the adrenaline-pumping 2-minute teaser introduces us to Darshan's character, portrayed in a bold and badass avatar.

With a dapper new haircut, clad in a fiery red ensemble, shades on, and cigar in hand, Darshan commands attention as he faces off against his foes with effortless charisma.

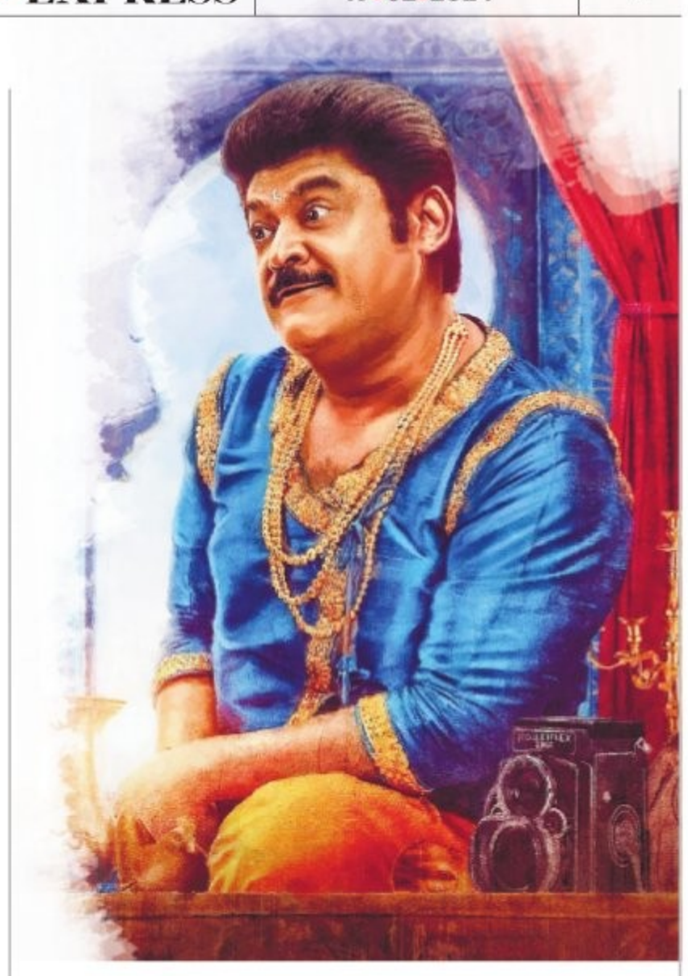
The scene begins with an intense vibe but swiftly transforms into a display of devilish charm and offbeat antics, showcasing Darshan's dynamic range. Set against a backdrop of opulence, we witness Devil unleashing his wrath upon those who dare to cross him, painting a vivid picture of his unyielding and formidable persona.

"We have a little baby at home. This baby doesn't like it when people take pictures of him. When the baby gets angry, he breaks the camera of the person who clicked his picture. Sarsu, would you like to know the baby's name?" Darshan quips with a deep voice, followed by the crack of a gunshot, as he introduces himself as Devil in the teaser.

The pulsating beats of B Ajaneesh Loknath's music add to the allure of the first look teaser, leaving fans clamoring for more. While the title and Darshan's suave appearance hint at his portrayal of an antagonist, the tagline - The Hero - suggests a deeper layer to his character, hinting at the possibility of him playing a dual role in the film. However, director Mailana Prakash remains tight-lipped about the character details.

Speaking with CE, Darshan opens about his transformative approach to portraying the role for *Devil*. "From *Majestic* to *Kaatera,* I've always strived to inhabit diverse characters and embody unique body language. In *Devil,* I embrace the role of a Casanova, a true renegade. Enough of playing the good guy, I'm a bad boy in *Devil*, and I can pull this off with ease. I intend to breathe life into this character like never before," he teases with a chuckle.

As the makers finalise the star-studded cast, cinematographer Sudhakar S Raj joins the technical team. Devil marks the second collaboration between director Prakash Veer and Darshan.



Chaithra Kottur to play Jaggesh's mother in *Ranganayaka*

CE FEATURES

JAGGESH-Guruprasad's much-anticipated Ranganayaka, produced by Vikhyath A R, is gearing up for release on March 8. The makers recently unveiled a retro love track from the film titled, *Enna Manadarasi*. This song, featuring Jaggesh and Rachitha Mahalakshmi, has lyrics penned by Sharadasutha and music composed by Anoop Seelin. The latter has also crooned the song alongside Indu Nagaraj.

Meanwhile, the team has also announced the return of actor and former *Bigg Boss* contestant, Chaitra Kottur, to the silver screen after a hiatus. She is all set to portray a significant character, essaying the role of Jaggesh's mother.

Guruprasad, the director, sheds light on Chaitra Kottur's character, stating, "The character she plays is quite distinctive. In the bygone black-and-white era, actors like M V Rajamma portrayed such roles. Initially, we aimed to cast someone from that era; however, finding an actor from that age group, with a good sense of humour, was challenging. Thus, we decided to go for a younger actor and zeroed down on Chaitra Kottur. The dynamics of the mother-son relationship will be worth experiencing on the big screen, presenting multifaceted dimensions within."

Chaithra Kottur shares, "Ever since the pandemic, I've been yearning for a platform to unleash my true artistic essence. Guruprasad provided me with this opportunity, urging me to work beyond my limitations. Art pulsates through my veins; it is my lifeline. This role illuminates a different facet of my craft, an opportunity I embrace wholeheartedly." Recollecting her initial apprehension about portraying Jaggesh's mother, she further praises the actor's unwavering support and encouragement throughout the journey.

Chaithra Kottur

Dhairyam Sarvathra Sadhanam gets release date

A still from the film

CE FEATURES

AR Sairam, who has previously worked as a dialogue writer in around 18 films, for 14 years, is all set to make his directorial debut with *Dhairyam Sarvathra Sadhanam*. The film is gearing up to hit the big screens on February 23. According to the first-time filmmaker Sairam, *Dhairyam Sarvathra Sadhanam* is based on a real incident, which took place in a remote village of Koratagere taluk. "The film, revolving around a father and a son, is a real-life incident which took place in my native in the 1960s. Growing up, I often listened to stories about this incident in my village which highlights the father's fight for survival, and I thought it would be the best subject for my film. Though the subject is of the 60s, I have modified it to take place in 2015-2017, with changes made to the story, accordingly," says the debutant director.

Produced by Anand Babu G, Dhairyam Sarvathra Sadhanam stars newcomer Vivan KK, Anusha Rai, and Balaraj Wadi in significant roles along with Vardhan Theethahalli, Rama Naik, Pradeep Pujari, Ram Pawan, and theatre artist Arjun Palegar in supporting roles. Judah Sandy has scored the music, and Ravi Kumar Sana has handled the cinematography for the film.

5D is a refreshing departure from S Narayan's signature style

A SHARADHAA

5D marks a significant milestone in S Narayan's illustrious career, serving as his 50th directorial venture in the Kannada film industry. Departing from his usual style, Narayan delves into darker themes while still employing his signature familial sentiments and humor into the narrative.

Set in the village of Bevinakolla, the film kicks off with a string of murders, leaving over 1,300 dead, including the formidable village head. S Narayan plays a resolute cop named Abhinandan, who along with the protagonist (Aditya), solve these gruesome crimes.

What unfolds is a gripping tale of mystery and suspense, spanning nearly two and a half decades as Abhinandan relentlessly pursues the truth behind the murders. Meanwhile, the surviving kin of the victims hatch a plan for vengeance, adding another layer of complexity to the plot.

One of the film's strengths lies in its exploration of the blood mafia territory, as Narayan ventures into uncharted territory, infusing the narrative with suspense and intrigue. However, despite the film's ambitious aspirations, some aspects fall short of expectations. While blood donation symbolizes the noble act of saving lives, *5D* takes a daring turn by delving into the dark underbelly of the blood mafia. Through a gripping narrative, the director sheds light on the sinister realities that can lurk behind seemingly altruistic endeavours. However, while the film's focus on the blood mafia may seem thinly showcased, it serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of blood donation.

5D
Director: S Narayan
Cast: Aditya, Aditi Prabhudeva, S Narayan, and Jyothi Rai

Adithya, who marks his 25th film in the industry with 5D, shines as a beacon of strength for the film by breathing life into his character. On the other hand, Aditi Prabhudeva's portrayal lacks the impact needed to fully engage the audience. Similarly, the mother-son subplot with Aditya and Jyothi Rai adds depth to the storyline, but is conventionally treated.

RATING 2.5/5

Nevertheless, *5D* offers a refreshing departure from Narayan's signature style, in a way that still satisfies his fans, with a darker and more intense narrative than his previous endeavors. Despite its imperfections, the film signifies an intriguing evolution in the veteran director's cinematic journey.

A complex, multifaceted journey of imagination and identity

A SHARADHAA

BEFORE delving into *Saramsha,* it's essential to introduce the director Surya Vasishta. With a diverse background including projects like *Tamassu, Lucia, U-Turn, Badmaash, Gantumoote, Shivaji Surathkal,* and the latest *Swati Muttina Male Haniye,* Surya has contributed in various capacities such as an assistant director, actor, and more. Drawing from experiences in corporate and short film domains,as well as managing international talent on talk shows across numerous countries, his involvement in VFX adds another layer to his versatile skill set. Making his directorial debut with Saramsha, Surya's work is crafted not for mass consumption but for the intellectual class who relish narratives similar to savoring a fine juice, sip by sip, while fully immersing themselves in the moment.

At the helm of this tale is Surya Vasishta, the writer and director, who has also played a role plunging himself into the imaginative world of storytelling through limited characters. Tejas Pandith (Deepak Subramanya) a dutiful son, has forsaken his writing passion due to his parents' disapproval, whereas Abhay (Surya Vasishta), burdened with paternal insecurities, constantly seeks validation. Their paths unexpectedly cross one day. Can they aid each other in resolving their struggles, or are they merely figments of imagination? Could one be scripting the other's tale? Before venturing ahead, we are made to ponder whether the path leads to desired destinations or life's whims. But is choice even a factor?

SARAMSHA
Director: Surya Vasishta
Cast: Deepak, Subramanya, Surya Vasishta, Sruthi Hariharan, and Sweta Gupta

Saramsha resembles a novel, brimming with metaphors and cultural nods, amidst a whirlwind of emotions. The absurdity of parallel universes colliding adds a whimsical twist to the tale, challenging the conventional norms of storytelling. This transition from literary imagination to visual portrayal presents its own set of hurdles, evident through its narrative.

Surya Vasishta impresses with his skill in conveying the essence of magical realism. He adeptly maneuvers between two parallel worlds, blending reality with fantasy, adding depth to the screen, offering a fresh and intriguing experience. Though the story mirrors a simple tale of our own selves and society, which helps to discover our living choices, and we are forced to destiny. This game between imagination and reality, which shifts between Kannada and English conversations, might not be everyone's cup of tea.

RATING 3/5

It highlights the complexity of Tejas's identity and the internal struggle he faces between familial expectations and his own innate passions. Despite being told he's adopted and being discouraged from pursuing writing by his mother, who is a writer herself, Tejas finds himself drawn to the art form. This conflict between conforming to his father's profession as a Chartered Accountant and following his true instinct for writing certainly invites viewers to contemplate the intricacies of self-discovery and personal fulfillment.

Another highlighting fact is the sub-plot that unfolds between the publisher Raksha (Shweta Gupta) who expresses her desire to be perceived as a Kannadiga despite her imperfect fluency in the language. This struggle with cultural identity resonates deeply with Tejas, a Bengaluru native torn between Kannada heritage and English comfort, mirroring the internal conflict.

While the film prioritises technical aspects, pushing to lose its emotional grip at times, it swiftly regains momentum, ensuring the audience remains engaged. Surya's dual role as both lead actor and director comes in handy here. Notably, the performances by Sruthi Hariharan, who plays the role of Maya, Deepak Subramanya, Shweta Gupta, and Surya Vaishta himself and others enhance the overall impact. It is Aparajith Sris' musical score that adds a haunting atmosphere to the narrative. Although experimental, such films are crucial in the current cinematic landscape and merit encouragement. Does the film leave an impression reminiscent of the satisfaction derived from a captivating book, a compelling play, or a heartfelt conversation with a loved one? I am not really sure. But *Saramsha,* irrespective, of how you want to look at it, invites viewers to ponder the complexities of life and the paths we choose to follow.